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CONFIDENTIAL.

(6172.)

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169

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING

ASIATIC TURKEY.

[In continuation of Confidential Paper No. 6046.]

169

1891.

Printed for the use of the Foreign Office. March 1892.

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FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING

ASIATIC TURKEY.

[In continuation of Confidential Paper No. 6046.]

1891.

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CONFIDENTIAL.

Further Correspondence respecting Asiatic Turkey.

[In continuation of Confidential Paper No. 6046.]

No. 1.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 9, 1891.)

(No. 549.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 27, 1890.

WITH reference to my despatch to your Lordship No. 476 of the 7th ultimo, I have the honour to inclose copy of a further despatch which I have received from Consul Jago, covering two letters which have been addressed to him on the position of affairs in the disturbed districts of Zeitoun.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 1.

Consul Jago to Sir W. White.

Sir, *Aleppo, December* 5, 1890.

REFERRING to my despatch dated the 7th ultimo on the affairs of Zeitoun, I have the honour to report to your Excellency that a few days since the Armenian Archbishop of Zeitoun was arrested and conveyed to Marash, where he was imprisoned. In this connection I beg to inclose, in original, a letter sent to me by a private hand the other day, dated Marash, 26th November, but unsigned. I would here observe that all letters from Marash and Zeitoun are understood to be opened at the post-office, while private messengers are liable to search and arrest.

Salih Pasha, Governor of Marash, has been named to Hillah, in the Bagdad Vilayet, and is to be replaced by the Governor of that place. A new Kaïmakam has also been appointed to Zeitoun who is said to be favourably disposed to the people. These changes are held to denote the desire of the Porte not to push matters to extremities, but to calm down present excitement by conciliatory measures.

The Rev. Mr. Sanders, an American missionary attached to the Aïntab Central Mission as Travelling Inspector among the Armenian Protestant communities, and who is intimately acquainted with the subject, writes me under date of the 23rd November from Hajin, in the Taurus range, as follows:—

"The germs of rebellion are now very widespread, but if the Government deals wisely with the matter it will pass very soon. The great mass of the Armenian people are entirely loyal, but they are regarded now with the greatest suspicion."

Mr. Sanders was himself arrested at Marash as being connected with the Zeitoun troubles after having permission to proceed to Hajin; and a young American (Mormon) missionary, who arrived at Marash from Sivas, was arrested and sent to Aleppo, where he was liberated with excuses and sent back to Marash.

The telegraph has now been carried to Zeitoun.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. S. JAGO.

P.S.—I reopen this despatch to inclose a letter just received from the Catholicos of Cis, confirmatory of the contents of the preceding inclosure.

T. S. J.

Inclosure 2 in No. 1.

——— *to Consul Jago.*

Marache, le 14 (26) *Novembre*, 1890.

M. le Consul,

MALGRÉ que Mgr. l'Archevêque des Arméniens de Zeïthoun ait désiré n'interrompre pas le cours de sa correspondance à vous adressée au sujet des maux de son peuple, la despotique diplomatie l'avait interdit dans son propre monastère au point de ne pouvoir s'adresser à personne.

Zeïthoun est remplie de 800 Rédifs placés dans les maisons vidées par violence et le peuple infortuné est à la proie aux plus atroces anxiétés; les prisons de Marache reçoivent par jour dix-huit à vingt prisonniers innocents, composés tous des honnêtes Arméniens de Zeïthoun; de plus 150 soldats ces jours-ci envoyés sur le village de Thékir contenant trente-cinq à quarante maisons d'Arméniens, sous prétexte de saisir les bandits prétendus d'alentour, ont entraîné jusqu'à Salih Pasha tous les villageois, les femmes et les enfants mêmes sans exceptions. Au surplus l'Archevêque de Zeïthoun, Mgr. Garabet, accompagné de cinquante Rédifs a été conduit au Palais et emprisonné comme assassin dans la prison des condamnés à mort; le péché en est même connu! Grand Dieu! jusqu'à quand souffrira cette race Chrétienne aux mains des barbares!

(Signé) ———.

Inclosure 3 in No. 1.

The Catholicos of Cilicia to Consul Jago.

(Translation.)

November 21, 1306 (*December* 3, 1890).

Sir,

IN consequence of a telegram sent by me to the effect that the Mutessarif of Marash had secretly summoned the Armenian Archbishop of Zeitoun, imprisoned him in the barracks of Zeitoun, subsequently transferred him under escort to Marash, where he imprisoned him, and that he is still in prison; as also that he had filled Zeitoun Monastery with soldiers, provisions, and horses for the purpose of wintering them there, the matter was communicated to the Sublime Porte.

It is a great insult to our nation and religion that the Mutessarif should thus treacherously summon a Bishop, imprison him, transfer him under escort to Marash, and there leave him in prison, and even quarter troops, &c., in a holy monastery.

Evident as it is that these are actions not to be supported by any individual who has the honour to be a Christian, and that your Government could never sanction them, and as it is your sacred duty to [do] what you can to promote the welfare of the Christians in these parts, and put an end to the insults inflicted on them, I beseech you to be kind enough to report in cypher to your Government the above regrettable incidents.

I avail, &c.

(Signed) CATHOLICOS OF CILICIA.

No. 2.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 9.)

(No. 6. Confidential.)

Constantinople, January 5, 1891.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copies of two despatches which have reached me from Erzeroum, the former from Mr. Vice-Consul Devey, relating to recent affairs in the neighbourhood of Van, and the second from Mr. Vice-Consul Boyadjian, reporting the recent decision given in the Blaidar case, by which several of the accused were acquitted.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 2.

Vice-Consul Devey to Consul Lloyd.

(Confidential.)

Van, December 6, 1890.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to state that in several cases of sheep robbery mentioned generally in my despatch of the 31st October last as having taken place to the north-east and east of this town, entire reparation has now been made; and I learn that the Tabur-Aghassi of the Van gendarmerie, who lately passed the Persian frontier to remonstrate with some of the more audacious Kurdish tribes in respect of such raids, may reasonably expect that these troublesome practices will be discontinued in that neighbourhood, as the result of threats which admit of execution.

Other items of news deserving notification are the arrest of Haidar Bey, and the wounding of a "petition writer," Nishan Terzibashian.

Haidar Bey, the son of Temir-Oglu Khorshid Bey (his name is mentioned in the inclosure to a despatch dated the 16th January, 1889), is a young man, considered quick-witted, and the hope of the family; he has lately been addressing harrowing telegrams upon the disturbed state of the country to the Imperial Palace, and among other asseverations, advances that Van and the surrounding regions will soon be lost to the Empire. No doubt both he and his will continue to hold such opinions just as long as Khalil Bey remains Vali of this province. Perhaps the strong measure of his summary arrest will have a salutary effect.

Nishan, the "Arzuhalji," is no relation to the wealthy grandee family Terzibashian, of whom Artin Effendi, ex-member of the "Idareh" Council, was in custody last year under the circumstances detailed in my letter of the 2nd April, 1890, but a poor man of no standing; perhaps, even, he may be slightly crazy; apparently emulous of the attentions paid to Charukji-Oglu Abraham (*vide* despatch of the 9th January, 1889), he has for a considerable time been holding out as the repository of important State secrets, and has, like Haidar Bey, been sending voluminous information to Constantinople. About a fortnight ago there was a rumour that this Nishan was to go to the capital; the Vali, to whom he had repeatedly addressed himself, had consented to the journey, but had not provided any funds. It was understood that Nishan was on the point of setting out, when on the evening of the 2nd instant a revolver-bullet grazed the lower part of his left arm. His account is that as some Armenians were passing one said, "There's the traitor," and immediately he was wounded. He accuses a young man of whose innocence there can scarcely be the slightest doubt; and from the circumstances and the trifling nature (next day he at once presented himself again to the Vali) and position of the wound, there is some ground for believing in the current report that he shot himself, or persuaded his brother to do so.

The revelations, it may be assumed, he proposed to make probably related to existence of seditious association or meditated acts in Van among Armenians, and are possibly in great part mere foolishness, and in any case trifling and of no profound secrecy. As a matter of fact, the quantity of disaffected sentiment is one that may be safely neglected, and his Excellency the Vali lately expressed to me in private the opinion that if many Armenians do cherish secretly the hope that at some time or other they will attain to a degree of self-government, there is not throughout their community any desire to change present conditions, if it should be only to pass under the yoke of Russia.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE POLLARD DEVEY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 2.

Acting Vice-Consul Boyadjian to Consul Lloyd.

Sir,

Diarbekir, December 6, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that after protracted examinations, and delay of about two years, the Court of Appeal at this place passed at last judgment upon the accused involved in the Blaidar case, and I regret to state that with the exception of two men who have been condemned to fifteen years' penal servitude, the others, in number about fifteen, have been acquitted.

In the outrage, the details of which were reported by me in a semi-official despatch dated the 10th August, 1889, four men and three children of from 3 to 9 years of age were butchered in cold blood, and fifty-one houses were burnt, which have been rebuilt by money paid out of the Treasury.

The decision is considered here as scandalous, for from the first the accused stood condemned at the bar of public opinion, and it was expected that they would receive the penalty they so rightly deserved.

I must not omit to mention, in justice to the President of the Tribunal, that his Honour has given it as his opinion that all the accused were guilty, and under his signature has set forth his reasons for differing from the other members of the Court, in the document containing the sentence, which I hope will be sent to the Court of Cassation for a final decision.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS BOYADJIAN.

No. 3.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir W. White.

(No. 8.)
Foreign Office, January 13, 1891.

Sir,

M. KAREKIN ESSAGIAN, a young Armenian, called at the Foreign Office on the 6th instant, and represented that he was desirous, at the instance of the Catholicos of Cis, to lay before me the deplorable condition of the Armenian people. He had come to London in order to see the Archbishop of Canterbury, with whom he appears to have had several interviews, on a different matter, connected with the education of the Armenians.

His communication on behalf of the Catholicos was to the following effect:—

That the treatment of the Armenian people by the Turks was never worse than at present; that all their hopes are centred in this country, and that unless Her Majesty's Government interferes in some way on their behalf, they will in a few years cease to exist. They do not, he says, ask for independence, but for liberty to practise their religion, and for just government. The Bishop of Zeitoun is now imprisoned at Marash without cause. Soldiers are quartered in the Cathedral and in the houses of the Armenians. The officials try to compel them to turn Mussulman, and the doctors vaccinate the children with poisonous lymph. The Catholicos has taken refuge at Skanderoon, in order to be near some foreign Consuls, and to be able to escape by sea if necessary, not daring to go to Cis, which is only three hours distant, as he is sure he would be poisoned.

In reply to an inquiry whether the Catholicos had made any appeal to Her Majesty's Consul at Aleppo, M. Essagian said that he hardly dared write, as his letters would be opened by the Turkish authorities.

What he asked was that I should depute some one to make a secret inquiry into the real state of affairs, and not trust to the Turkish officials or to Memorials in favour of the Sultan's rule, which Armenians were compelled to sign; and he concluded by begging that I would send some message of advice to the Catholicos.

M. Essagian has been informed that papers about to be laid before Parliament will show that Her Majesty's Embassy had not been unmindful of the interests of the Christian subjects of the Sultan in Asia Minor.

If any message is sent to the Catholicos, I think it would be better that it should be given through your Excellency, and you are authorized, at your discretion, to inform him in general terms of the representations which you have made to the Porte on behalf of the Christian subjects of the Sultan, and the hope entertained by Her Majesty's Government that the system of administration in the provinces may ere long be improved.

As regards the present state of affairs at Zeitoun, the information contained in the despatches from Her Majesty's Consul at Aleppo, which have been sent home by your Excellency, is very vague, and you might, if you see no objection, instruct Mr. Jago to proceed to Zeitoun to make inquiries as to the real facts of the case, or take such other steps for the purpose as you may deem advisable.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 4.

Foreign Office to M. Essagian.

Foreign Office, January 14, 1891.

Sir,

WITH reference to the representations which you made at this Office on the 6th instant, I am directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to inform you that papers about to be laid before Parliament will show that Her Majesty's Embassy at Constantinople has not been unmindful of the interests of the Christian subjects of the Sultan in Asia Minor.

I am, &c.
(Signed) P. CURRIE.

No. 5.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 26.)

(No. 19. Secret.)
Constantinople, January 17, 1891.

My Lord,

FOR some time back I have been advising the Grand Vizier, unofficially, to obtain from the Sultan as extensive an amnesty as possible for the numerous Armenians imprisoned or exiled for political offences.

The Armenian (Gregorian) Patriarch has also been working in this sense and even the Armenian Catholic Patriarch, though I believe none of the latter denomination have been implicated in the late political agitation.

I have sent a recommendation in this direction, very confidentially, four weeks ago to His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, and have informed the Grand Vizier of my having done so.

I hear some few Armenian prisoners are about to be liberated at once, and I hope this may prove to be only an instalment of a more general act of grace.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 6.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 26.)

(No. 22.)
Constantinople, January 19, 1891.

My Lord,

YESTERDAY the Armenians celebrated the feast of the Epiphany, which is one of their greatest festivals.

On the previous evening, by the Sultan's orders, seventy-six political prisoners were set free at Constantinople, mostly individuals whose trial had not been completed, and they were conducted before the Patriarch, in whose presence they took an oath of allegiance, and who addressed them recommending obedience and loyalty to the Sultan.

I am not in possession of reliable information as regards persons who may have been pardoned in the provinces, or as to the further intentions of the Sultan with regard to condemned Armenians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 7.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir W. White.

(No. 25.)
Foreign Office, January 28, 1891.

Sir,

I HAVE received and laid before the Queen your Excellency's despatch No. 19 of the 17th instant, in which you report the steps which you have been taking in order to obtain from His Imperial Majesty the Sultan as extensive an amnesty as

possible for the numerous Armenians who have been exiled and imprisoned for political offences; and I have to inform your Excellency that your efforts in this direction are approved by Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 8.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 6.)

(No. 39.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 31, 1891.

ON receipt of Mr. Acting Consul Hampson's despatches of the 16th instant, I at once instructed Sir A. Sandison to bring their contents to the special notice of the Grand Vizier, and I have now the honour to inclose copies of the despatches in question, as well as of Sir A. Sandison's Memorandum giving details of his interview, and reporting his Highness' language on that occasion.

For previous particulars in reference to the affair at Vartennis, I have the honour to refer your Lordship to the late Mr. C. Lloyd's despatch of the 21st August last, which formed an inclosure in my No. 399 to your Lordship of the 31st of that month; and I propose to supply the Grand Vizier with the particulars asked for by his Highness, as mentioned in the last paragraph of the inclosed Memorandum.

Your Lordship will perceive that, under instructions from me, Sir A. Sandison availed himself of the same opportunity to urge on Kiamil Pasha the appointment of proper Governors-General, as well as the nomination of honest and efficient judicial functionaries in Kurdistan, and further to address various questions to his Highness with reference to the Armenians of Zeitoun, and the imprisonment of their Bishop at Marash.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 8.

Memorandum by Sir A. Sandison.

IN accordance with your Excellency's instructions, I took an early opportunity of telling the Grand Vizier that, in recommending certain measures for the improvement of the condition of affairs in Kurdistan, you had repeatedly urged upon his attention the appointment of proper Governors-General, as well as the nomination of proper and efficient judicial functionaries.

Your Excellency, I added, wished now to know, with a view to reporting the matter to Her Majesty's Government, whether the Sultan, if not his Government, intended to act upon this important suggestion. His Highness stated, in reply, that there were three important posts of Governor-General in Kurdistan, viz., Erzeroum, Van, and Bitlis.

The latter post, he remarked, had for some time past been occupied by Raouf Pasha, ex-Mutessarif of Jerusalem, who, as your Excellency is aware, has given full satisfaction to the people in general, and to his Government. With regard to Van, there was an intention, he said, of changing the present Governor, when the Porte received testimonials, both from the Christian and Mussulman inhabitants, expressing their satisfaction with his government. Lastly, as regards Erzeroum, his Highness described the Governor as having so far given no cause of complaint to the people and the Government, but that, nevertheless, he was quite prepared to change the last-mentioned two Governors in case they should not continue to give satisfaction.

With reference to judicial functionaries, his Highness said that, in pursuance of the representations made to him by your Excellency through me, he lost no time in causing the immediate recall of the "Procureur-Général" of Erzeroum, and that he has since given special instructions to the Minister of Justice in future to be very careful in his choice and appointment of judicial functionaries for Kurdistan.

Still acting under your Excellency's instructions, I likewise brought to his Highness' special notice certain matters mentioned in Lord Salisbury's despatch

No. 8 of the 13th January, 1891, and Mr. Consul Hampson's despatches of the 16th January, 1891, viz.:—

1. The imprisonment of the Bishop of Zeitoun at Marash, who, I said, had been arrested and kept in prison without any reason or trial.

His Highness replied by stating that there was against the Bishop in question more than is supposed, and that, as the interrogatory is still going on, he will wait till it is finished.

2. The quartering of troops in the Zeitoun monastery, with reference to which his Highness distinctly stated that no troops had ever been quartered in the monastery, but that some time ago, for want of sufficient accommodation for the soldiers, a number of them had been quartered in some premises belonging to the monastery, but not in the monastery itself.

3. Hussein Agha, of Patnoss. I told his Highness that according to our information this individual would appear to be just as great a monster as Moussa Bey, and that there seemed to be some attempt or inclination on the part of the local authorities at Erzeroum to try and screen him from the numerous charges brought against him.

His Highness said that according to his information this individual was under police surveillance at Erzeroum, and that he declares himself quite ready to answer any accusation as soon as the accusers present them, and to submit to being tried.

Finally, I called his Highness' attention to the Vartennis affray, telling him that whilst the Armenians had been severely punished, the Kurds got off scot-free. His Highness replied that he had hardly any recollection of this matter, but that he would be glad to receive through me the necessary particulars.

Pera, January 31, 1891.

Inclosure 2 in No. 8.

Acting Consul Hampson to Sir W. White.

Sir, *Erzeroum, January* 16, 1891.

IN regard to the affray between Kurds and Armenians at Vartennis, reported by Consul Lloyd in his despatch of the 21st August last, and its inclosure, Vice-Consul Devey's despatch of the 19th August, which arose from an attempt of the Kurds to carry off an Armenian bride, and in which two Kurds and an Armenian lost their lives, I have now the honour to inform your Excellency that of the Armenians arrested and imprisoned at Mush on account of this affair seventeen have been condemned to fifteen years' imprisonment. No steps have been taken to punish the Kurds concerned in the attack.

Nine Armenians out of seventeen from Kupri-Keui, and seven or eight from Alashgird, have been in prison here for the last three or four months on vague charges of sedition.

To show your Excellency the ridiculous charges on which Christians are imprisoned, I quote the following case:—

A young Armenian, Mukhoian Aliksan, who recently came here from the Russian frontier, is now in prison, the only accusation against him being that a paper was found in his possession on which were written the names of the villages at which he stopped during his journey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES S. HAMPSON.

Inclosure 3 in No. 8.

Acting Consul Hampson to Sir W. White.

Sir, *Erzeroum, January* 16, 1891.

I HAVE the honour to submit to your Excellency the following summary of some of the chief points in the career of Hussein Agha, Mudir of Patnoss, who is at present detained in Erzeroum by the Vali.

I had communicated all these facts at various times to Consul Lloyd during his absence at Constantinople, and he directed me to embody them in a despatch.

Hussein Agha is not one of the great Kurdish Chiefs, being only a Sub-Chief of

the Haideranlee tribe in the Alashgird district; but though still a young man, between 30 and 35, he has, as a brigand, gained for himself an unequalled notoriety and reputation for daring crime. The Vali of Van stated to Vice-Consul Devey that Hussein Agha could, if necessary, produce 2,000 men. This is probably a great exaggeration, but he certainly could produce a considerable body of men well mounted and armed with Martini rifles.

Vice-Consul Devey says of Hussein Agha:—

"He has committed every species of crime on his own account; but about six years ago Kyazim Bey, Mutessarif of Bayazid, was trying to seize a certain Kurdish brigand and murderer, Avani, of Alashgird, and finally succeeded. Avani was imprisoned for three or four years at Bayazid, but bribed his way out. Kyazim Bey, desirous of apprehending him again, incited the Mukhtar of Patnoss, Hussein Agha, with other Aghas of the Haideranlee, to plunder Avani's village. A vast number of sheep were carried off. Avani brought an action against Hussein Agha at Van, and Hussein was imprisoned there for four or five months.

"Either because the crime took place some time ago, or because Hussein may have again bribed, he was shortly released."

The history of his crimes, imprisonment, and subsequent proceedings was narrated by three Kurds from Alashgird, one of whom was brother of the Avani mentioned by Mr. Devey, as follows:—

These three Kurds had come to Erzeroum to present a Petition against Hussein, which the Vali twice refused to receive.

For five or six years Hussein Agha has been the terror of the inhabitants of Alashgird, both Christian and Mussulman. The winter before last the Christians of Patnoss felt themselves to be in such a state of insecurity owing to his outrages that they all went to Kara Kilissa. On this, Hussein and his Kurds surrounded the house of the Christian Bishop there, but on his promise to make no complaint retired, and the villagers returned to Patnoss.

However, the Mussulman Ulema of Patnoss, Sheikh Nouri, complained of Hussein's behaviour to the Vali of Erzeroum and to the Mutessarif of Bayazid, on hearing which Hussein sent Kurds and murdered Nouri, and so frightened his daughter-in-law that she died. On this, the latter's brother, Sheikh Abdullah (one of the three Kurds who told the story), complained to the Kaïmakam of Aintab, who arrested thirteen of Hussein's men, but, by means of bribes, Hussein obtained their release after three months.

In regard to Hussein's imprisonment at Van, the facts stated were that, about four or five years ago, Hussein was robbing and plundering; that he set fire to nine villages, killed ten men, and cut off the right hands, noses, and ears of eleven more, some of whom could, if necessary, be produced as witnesses. He carried off over 2,600 sheep, nine horses, many cattle, and property of all sorts. From the house of Avani's brother (who was present while the tale was told) he took 500*l.* worth of property, and blinded his mother with a gun. Last winter only was the matter brought to the notice of the Vali of Van. Hussein was imprisoned there for a few months, but was released on a plea of illness, and, it is said, at the suggestion of the present Vali of Erzeroum, who was then acting on a Commission of Inquiry at Van. On his way back from Van, about the end of August 1890, he killed two Kurds, Abdullah and Issa, at the village of Arjish, because he had learnt that they had dared to criticize his conduct. These murders are confirmed by Vice-Consul Devey in his despatch of the 31st October, 1890.

A year ago Hussein carried off and ravished five Christian girls from Patnos.

On his return from Van he continued in his old courses, and, during the months of September and October, forcibly collected nearly 300*l.* in the district of Patnos. At the head of a band of some forty men, well mounted and well armed, he terrorizes the whole country, Christian and Mussulman alike, between whom he seizes every opportunity of fostering ill-feeling. Since the Erzeroum disturbance of the 20th June, 1890, he has specially oppressed the Christians.

In the beginning of last November Hussein was summoned here by the Vali with the other Kurdish Chiefs. When the others were dismissed, Hussein was detained here, owing to the number of complaints against him the Vali says, in order to protect him from justice as the Valis of Van and Bitlis declare, both of whom demand that he should be handed over to them to be punished for crimes committed in their respective districts. It is said that he has spared no expense to obtain the good-will of the authorities here, and it is known that he gave to, and received from, the President of the Criminal Court of Appeal various valuable presents.

However this may be, Hussein Agha is still here, not under arrest, but not allowed to depart. But the following facts show that he still manages to commit crimes by proxy:—

About the end of November Hussein's brother and son, with other relations, and and a band of 100 horsemen, attacked three villages in the Nahié of Aintab, stayed in each over a day, and carried off 300 sheep, 150 cattle, 5 horses, and many carpets, &c.

A week later Hussein sent orders to his brother to procure some money for him. His brother therefore made a raid on twenty-one villages in the district of Aintab, from the Christian inhabitants of which nearly 350*l.* and 200 "batmans" of butter were collected and sent here to Hussein. Hacho, a Christian of Patnoss, refused to give 5*l.* demanded of him. Four servants of Hussein went by night to Hacho's house. Hacho was absent, so they mortally wounded his son's bride, and killed his two children, aged 6 and 7. Hacho returned next day, and found the woman on the point of death. However, she was able to give the names of the murderers. Hacho was warned that, if he gave information, he would be immediately killed.

Avani, mentioned at the beginning of this despatch as having formerly brought an action against Hussein at Van, has recently arrived here with a like intention. It seems probable, however, that the matter will be hushed up, and that it will be made worth Avani's while to let the action drop.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES S. HAMPSON.

No. 9.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir W. White.

(No. 36.)
Sir,

Foreign Office, February 11, 1891.

I HAVE received and laid before the Queen your Excellency's despatch No. 39 of the 31st ultimo, relative to the situation in Kurdistan, and I have to inform your Excellency that your action in the matter is approved by Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 10.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 20.)

(No. 48. Confidential.)
My Lord,

Constantinople, February 10, 1891.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van, which I have received through Her Majesty's Consulate at Erzeroum, reporting on the affairs of Hekkiari.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 10.

Vice-Consul Devey to Sir W. White.

(Confidential.)
Sir,

Van, November 24, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that a recent attempt to take the census was received very badly by the Kurds generally, and particularly so in the neighbourhood of Bashkaleh. Many Kurds there abandoned their homes temporarily and some took to highway robbery and other deeds of violence, so that even in the town of Bashkaleh there was considerable alarm lest houses be broken into by night.

For the moment, it has been decided to relax the efforts made in this direction, and only those districts will be registered which show a moderate degree of willingness to admit it. Of course, the opposition to the census has its source in the expectation that it is to be accompanied by conscription among the Kurds in Hekkiari. But, little by little and with persuasion and by means of other inducements, it may be hoped that the

Government will ultimately carry through both these and any other measures for a more regular and profitable administration.

The Kaïmakams of Albak and Shattakh were to have exchanged posts, but it has been found undesirable.

In the last six or seven weeks, as has been mentioned elsewhere, companies of infantry were distributed at a number of villages in the neighbourhood; some were sent to the frontier stations, Diza, Bashkaleh, Serai, and others are posted at the villages, Karakenduz, Sivan, and Norkeigh, and at Chukh Khan a zaptieh cordon at the Chukh Pass on the Bashkaleh road. It was lately rumoured that the "Redif" were to be disbanded, but no such order has yet been received by the officers in command.

His Imperial Highness, Muzaffer-ed-Din, the "Veli-i-Ahd," has been travelling about Urumiah and Salmas, I am told; it is not believed that the journey was undertaken with any special political objects; but one may well hope that His Majesty the Shah is turning his attention to the frontier provinces and that some day an understanding will be arrived at between Persia and Turkey for measures to restrain border Kurdish raids.

A week ago alarmist reports reached Van from Argish; the Kaïmakam of that caza, who had come to Van for two or three days, was ordered to return post haste, and a score of telegrams were interchanged next day. It subsequently appeared that a certain Mahmud Agha had been secretly assassinated, the how and why unknown. I mentioned this matter to the Vali privately; his Excellency seemed to be unaware of any murder having taken place, but told me he had received information from Erzeroum of a party of thirty (Russian?) Armenians being about to make a descent upon Argish; he had therefore bidden the Kaïmakam return forthwith and be on the look-out, but to be careful not to make promiscuous arrests of innocent travelling parties unarmed.

Two incidents, as yet unreported, took place in Hamidi Caza within the last month: (1) a robbery of some 240 sheep from Gater, an Armenian village 5 miles east of Khoshab town, by Persian Kurds; sixty were got back; (2) a quarrel, and murder of a Kurd by a Kurd, in Yerdalan village, also in that neighbourhood; the homicide was seized by the Khoshab authorities, and is in prison.

Seven discharged soldiers were robbed at the Chukh Pass, three or four weeks ago, of their pay and chattels by Kurds unknown. A shepherd who was on the mountain has been under arrest and examination, but the culprits have not yet been traced.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE PATTERSON DEVEY.

P.S. *November* 26.—Having visited his Excellency the Vali again this afternoon, I inquired whether any complication had occurred at Argish, and was assured that all was perfectly tranquil; a false rumour would appear to have arisen out of the fact that a rather large train of Turkish Armenians were departing viâ Argish for Russia to earn wages there during the winter.

G. P. D.

No. 11.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 20.)

(No. 53.)
Constantinople, February 14, 1891.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 8 of the 13th ultimo, calling my attention to the representations made at the Foreign Office by Mr. R. Essagian at the instance of the Catholicos of Cis respecting the condition of the Armenian people.

In my despatch No. 39 of the 31st January to your Lordship (Inclosure 1, paragraph 5), your Lordship will have observed that Sir A. Sandison called the attention of the Grand Vizier to the statement made by Mr. Essagian respecting the imprisonment of the Bishop of Zeitoun at Marash without reason or trial, and to the statement relative to the quartering of troops in the Zeitoun Monastery, reporting at the same time His Highness' replies to the allegations.

I have now the honour to transmit to your Lordship an extract from a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Aleppo, dated the 16th ultimo, inclosing two letters from the Catholics of Cis complaining of arrests and ill-treatmeut of Armenians at

Marash, Hadjui, Kozan, &c. The statements contained in these letters, copies of which, as well as of Mr. Jago's despatch, are herewith inclosed, Her Majesty's Consul at Aleppo asserts that he is unable to verify, owing to the contradictory nature of the information procurable.

Sir A. Sandison has, however, on my instructions, called the serious attention of the Grand Vizier to the subject of these documents.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 11.

Consul Jago to Sir W. White.

(Extract.)
Aleppo, January 16, 1891.

THE Catholicos of Cis, at present staying at Alexandretta, on his way from Aleppo to Cis, has just sent me the two inclosed letters in Turkish, complaining of arrests and ill-treatment of Armenians at Marash, Hadjui, Kozan, &c. As formerly, similar letters have been sent, I believe, to the Russian Consul here. I am unable to verify the statements contained in the Catholicos' letters; the little information obtainable here being Armenian, and that exaggerated and contradictory. The British Vice-Consuls at Adana and Mersina report to me that arrests are being made of Armenians in the Vilayet of Adana, suspected of forming part of the so-called Revolutionary Committee sitting at Hadjui.

The troops dispatched last autumn to Marash and Zeitoun have returned here.

Inclosure 2 in No. 11.

The Catholicos of Cis to Consul Jago.

(Translation.)
Sir,
December 26, 1890 (*January* 7, 1891).

ACCORDING to letters received by me from some quarters, as I previously informed you, the Bishop of Zeitoun monastery, five or six clergymen, the schoolmaster, and more than seventy Notables of Zeitoun, although quite innocent, were a long time ago thrown into prison like ordinary criminals, and, in a manner incapable of any explanation and quite unprecedented, were cut off from any communication and deprived of food, so that five or six of the unfortunate prisoners died in prison of hunger and misery. Moreover, I understand from reliable sources that it has been proposed and decided that these wretched prisoners should be tried by a court-martial composed of some prominent Mussulmans and Christians who have a hereditary hatred for Zeitoun, and that the natural result will be that this court-martial will condemn them to exile and imprisonment in a fortress.

It has been rumoured that the Government, to prosecute its aims and intentions, is about to imprison some prominent Armenians of Marash, and news comes from Cis that the officers, soldiers, and gendarmes, who have been specially sent by the Government against some poverty-stricken villages on the hills around Marash, Zeitoun, and Anderin Cazas, tortured in a most inhuman manner, which no language can adequately describe, the unfortunate Armenian men and women; were guilty of most dishonourable conduct; flung into prison on vague charges some of the well-to-do people of the Jaïsh Caza in Kozan.

Again, some time ago some married people among the Notables of the town of Erzin of Pias Caza, composed entirely of Mussulmans and containing some 800 houses, as well as more than 100 other Mussulmans, attacked the Armenian villages in Pias Caza, and, although they swore by their wives to pillage and exterminate them, were prevented by some unexpected occurrence from carrying their secret designs into execution, and, not having fulfilled their oath according to the precepts of the Sheri, all the miscreants left their wives. Notwithstanding that everybody was aware they had quitted their wives, the local authorities for some reason, instead of inflicting the penalty prescribed by law for the disturbance they had openly plotted, allowed their conduct to go unpunished.

If aid does not come to the Armenians from some quarter to protect them from the tyranny they experience at the hands of the Mussulman Government and people,

should this state of things continue, the wretched Armenians will be obliged to adopt Islamism or take to flight.

Taking refuge, then, in the clemency and aid of your Government, we pray you to explain the matter in detail to your Government, so that something may be done at once; and we further entreat you to exert your influence to save the Armenians by some means or other from the great oppression by which they are the object.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CATHOLICOS OF CILICIA.

Inclosure 3 in No. 11.

The Catholicos of Cis to Consul Jago.

(Translation.)

December 28, 1890 (*January* 9, 1891).

Sir,

IN addition to the details I communicated to you in my letter of the 26th December, 1306 (7th January, 1891), I have again received various information from reliable source to the effect that in the villages of Erzin, Chaih and Ojakli in the Caza of Pias, the Mussulmans have risen against the Armenians, subject them to all kinds of oppression and have unjustly summoned and imprisoned a number of them.

As there can be no doubt that this conduct of the Mussulmans and its encouragement by the Local Government will shortly bring about an insurrection and completely ruin the Christian population, I would ask you to be kind enough to apply to high quarters with a view to finding some means of protection for them, and to let me know the result.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CATHOLICOS OF CIS.

No. 12.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 20.)

(No. 54. Secret.)

Constantinople, February 14, 1891.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my immediately preceding and to the last paragraph of your Lordship's despatch to me, No. 8 of the 13th ultimo, granting me authority, should I see no objection, to instruct Mr. Jago to proceed to Zeitoun to make inquiries as to the real facts of the case described by Mr. Essagian at the instance of the Catholicos of Cis, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that I have thus far refrained from further action upon the terms of your Lordship's despatch than that reported by me in my despatch No. 53 of this day's date, and my despatch No. 39 of the 31st ultimo.

Until I shall receive from the Grand Vizier or from other sources further and more detailed information on the subject, I shall refrain from forwarding instructions to Her Majesty's Consul at Aleppo to proceed to Zeitoun, as, in the present state of feeling in that district, I consider a visit from Mr. Jago might be interpreted by both Armenians and Turkish authorities alike to be an official encouragement on the part of Her Majesty's Government.

I trust your Lordship may approve of my motives for not taking action at present on your despatch.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 13.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 20.)

(No. 55.)

Constantinople, February 14, 1891.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt, by messenger Captain Hare, of your Lordship's despatch No. 28 of the 2nd instant, inclosing a copy of a despatch from Consul Peacock respecting the emigration of Circassians from the Caucasus.

In consequence of a paragraph in a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Aleppo of the 10th ultimo, which ran as follows:—

"2,700 recently-arrived Circassian immigrants, now located temporarily at Tarsus, are, it is said, to be settled in the districts of Hadjui, Kozan, &c., where cholera has ceased." I inquired of Mr. Jago by telegraph what proportion the Mussulman inhabitants in the above-named districts bear to the Armenians, and whether the Circassian immigrants will be allowed to retain their arms on arrival.

A paraphrase of this telegram is herewith inclosed.

I have also the honour to inclose an extract from the "Levant Herald" of the 11th instant giving details of the various shipments of emigrants from the Caucasus into Ottoman territory during the last few months.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 13.

Sir W. White to Consul Jago, Telegraphic, February 11, 1891.

[Not printed.]

Inclosure 2 in No. 13.

Extract from the "Levant Herald" of February 11, 1891.

EMIGRATION FROM THE CAUCASUS.—The total number of emigrants from the Caucasus who have arrived and been more or less settled in Ottoman territory amounts to 9,345 souls. The first shipment, which arrived here on the 4th November, numbered 2,400; the second, which arrived on the 10th November, numbered 2,335; the third arrived on the 20th November and numbered 2,200 souls. These three shipments went forward to Adalia where they were landed and provided with a place of settlement. The fourth shipment, which arrived here on the 2nd December, went forward on the 4th December to Mersina, where to the number of 2,410 they disembarked and were taken charge of by the local authorities. No further envoy has arrived, we believe, since that date, but it is expected that a very much larger number is prepared to leave the Caucasus and may be expected in the early weeks of spring.

No. 14.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir W. White.

(No. 50.)

Foreign Office, February 25, 1891.

Sir,

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 54, Secret, of the 14th instant, relative to the recent disturbances at Zeitoun, and I approve your having refrained from instructing Mr. Consul Jago to proceed to that place until you have received further information on the subject from other sources.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 15.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 9.)

(No. 59.)

Constantinople, February 19, 1891.

My Lord,

MR. ACTING CONSUL HAMPSON having brought to my notice charges against Ahmed Bey, who was appointed in November last as Kaïmakam of Alashgird, of having, since his assumption of office, forcibly collected large sums of money from the Christians of that district, I instructed Sir Alfred Sandison to mention the matter to the Grand Vizier.

His Highness has informed me, in reply, that the Kaïmakam in question has been now dismissed from his office at Alashgird.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 16.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 9.)

(No. 63.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February 23, 1891.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch I have received, through Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum, from the British Vice-Consul at Diarbekir, reporting an outrage perpetrated by Kurds upon a defenceless party of travellers at a spot only a quarter-of-an-hour's distance from Farkin, the seat of the Sub-Governor of the Caza of Silivan.

I have instructed Sir A. Sandison to call the serious attention of the Grand Vizier to the Report of this outrage.

I have also the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a despatch No. 10 from Her Majesty's Acting Consul at Erzeroum, reporting a painful incident which is said to have occurred in the neighbourhood of Bitlis.

I have not failed to call the Grand Vizier's attention likewise to this incident.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 16.

Acting Vice-Consul Boyadjian to Consul Lloyd.

Sir, *Diarbekir, November 25, 1890.*

I HAVE the honour to call your attention to a most shocking case of outrage perpetrated lately by some brutal Kurds upon a defenceless party of travellers in a place only a quarter-of-an-hour's distance from Farkin, the seat of the Sub-Governor of the Caza of Silivan.

It appears that an Armenian priest, in the company of his brother and the wife of the latter, started from Khazan for Koreet, which is distant from Farkin only about twenty minutes, and the native place of the said priest. Within five or six minutes of the mentioned village, the priest noticed four or five wild-looking Kurds who were all armed and apparently lying in wait a few paces off the road on which the travellers were. Suspecting that they might be brigands, the priest hastened to the village, which was on the decline of a hill, to give the alarm, but, as soon as he was out of sight, another party of Kurds, also armed, appeared from their place of concealment and joined the first, thus constituting a band of twelve men. They fell first upon the man and, robbing him of all his effects, shot him dead on the spot; then turning to the poor woman, who I am told is only sixteen years of age and very handsome, they treated her brutally, stripped her almost naked and dishonoured her; in the meanwhile, some people from the village above mentioned arrived at the scene of the tragedy, when the Kurds took their flight, leaving their victim half dead.

Among the party from the village was one of the brothers of the murdered man, who, finding his brother assassinated and his sister-in-law thus outraged, lost the balance of his mind from his excessive grief, shot himself, and fell dead on the body of his murdered brother. The others took the woman and repaired to Farkin to lay the [?] before the Sub-Governor, but neither the history of the outrageous crime, nor the most pitiable condition of the woman, could arouse him from his apathy or induce him to take steps to pursue the villainous criminals or send gendarmes to the spot where the corpses of the victims were still lying.

The relatives of the sufferers felt obliged to petition the Governor-General, who, in accordance with his usual energy, not merely sent categorical orders to the Sub-Governor to remind him of his duty, but his Excellency dispatched at once the Commander of the gendarmerie with a sufficient force to Farkin, giving him strict injunctions to use every means for the apprehension of the criminals; and I learn with satisfaction that six or seven of the ruffians have been seized by the above-mentioned Commander, and it is hoped that the rest also will soon be captured.

No words can too strongly condemn the criminal conduct of the Sub-Governor in thus neglecting to fulfil his duty. I am told that only three weeks ago another Armenian was murdered in the vicinity of Farkin, though I am not in possession of the details of the case, and it so happened the said Sub-Governor, with a few gendarmes, passed by where the man was lying still alive, although unable to move, but he evinced the same indifference in this case also.

I need not state that, if stronger measures are not taken to check this lawlessness, the Caza of Silivan, which lately appeared to be comparatively tranquil, will soon again be disturbed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS BOYADJIAN.

Inclosure 2 in No. 16.

Mr. Hampson to Sir W. White.

Sir, *Erzeroum, January 30, 1891.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency of an incident which I learn on reliable authority from Bitlis.

A band of thirty mounted police which were on the march were billeted for the night in a small Armenian village (name not stated) of ten houses, a few hours distant from Bitlis. Four of them were quartered in the house of a young married Armenian. Overhearing them discussing plans against his wife's honour, he secretly sent her to the house of a neighbour. When the zaptiehs learnt this, they ordered him to send for her, and, on his refusing to do so, beat him most cruelly. He fled to a neighbour's house, but, two days later, died from the effects of the ill-treatment which he had received. Four doctors, three of them Turks, the other a Christian, examined the body, and the latter had the courage, in the face of the opinions given by the others, to certify to the real cause of death.

In the houses where the other zaptiehs were quartered their designs against the female members of the families were carried out without resistance.

I shall request Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van to make further inquiries into this case, and will inform your Excellency of the matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES HAMPSON.

No. 17.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 9.)

(No. 64.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February 23, 1891.*

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Acting Consul at Erzeroum forwarding a Memorandum from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van upon Armenian grievances and the pretensions based thereon, as well as upon the false lights shed upon such questions by paragraphs that have appeared in the "Daily News" and other papers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 17.

Acting Consul Hampson to Sir W. White.

Sir, *Erzeroum, February 14, 1891.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to his Excellency herewith copies in duplicate of Vice-Consul Devey's despatch of the 12th January.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES S. HAMPSON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 17.

Vice-Consul Devey to Sir W. White.

Van, January 12, 1891.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to forward a Memorandum bearing upon Armenian grievances and the pretensions based thereon, as well as upon the false lights shed upon such questions by certain newspaper paragraphs.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE POLLARD DEVEY.

Inclosure 3 in No. 17.

Memorandum on the Misleading Views respecting Armenian Affairs disseminated by paragraphs periodically recurring in certain Newspapers, in particular the "Daily News," and upon the Condition of Kurds and Armenians generally.

ARTICLES headed "Anarchy, Troubles, or Disturbances in Armenia" have been constantly published throughout the past year, and the substance of these articles is more often than not either wholly without foundation or most grossly distorted.

It would be a tiresome task to examine in detail the mass of such allegations, but to pitch at random upon a telegram dated Igdyr and entitled "The Disorder in Armenia," in the "Daily News" of the 16th September, 1890, its statements and insinuations may be regarded as generally erroneous and false; and it is followed by a letter from "Minasse Teheraz," addressed to Mr. Gladstone, of much the same type on "Religious Persecution."

Or, again, the "Daily News" of the 3rd December, 1890, announces the desecration of a church at Mush and slaughter of eighteen Armenians, names given, assertions which, in absence of all knowledge here, I am inclined to disbelieve wholly.

Or, again, a reported massacre of Christians in the town of Mush ("Daily News," the 20th August, 1890) never took place; and, a little below, a priest, escaped from Van, says that but for the presence of the Russian and British Consuls no one's life would be safe; as it is, the oppression is intolerable.

Such asseverations as the above scarcely call for serious notice.

Numbers of other similar outrageous expressions are constantly published, *e.g.*, that "the present policy of the Turks seemed to be to exterminate the Armenians entirely," and a recent telegram stated that the Turkish Government had furnished Martini-Henry rifles to the Kurds in the Armenian districts, as repeated by a Member of Parliament in the House of Commons on the 7th August last. And even after refutation, the same accusation of the Government distributing arms and inciting Kurds to destroy Armenians is persisted in.

Reference was also made on the same occasion (the 7th August) to a change which had been made in the abolition of the protection formerly given to the Christian population.

Beys and Aghas in bygone times used to levy contributions and protect the "Rayahs" around them; these, while still continuing to pay such blackmail, are exposed to raids by Kurds, Circassians, tribes, and others, and though taxes are exacted from them by the Government, no efficient protection is to be had.

Remnants of the old system, indeed, still survive in remote corners, but the practice of blackmailing is steadily discouraged by local authorities. A bare half-dozen years ago it existed in Shattakh Caza, for instance, to a much greater extent, whereas now it is all but extinct.

Possibly, it would be often just as well that there should be no intervention between such feudatories and their tyrants, in view of the impossibility of entering into all the relations between the parties; there may be questions, for instance, of property in land, furnishing shepherds or watchmen, use of pasturage, feeding cattle in winter, supply of seed, corn, &c., all of which circumstances are suppressed by those who would represent the Armenian peasant as in all cases the victim of the Bey. The danger at such a conjuncture is lest an Agha here and there be tempted, as he feels his pristine power and influence slipping from him, to secretly encourage raids and acts of violence in order to appear as intermediary and thus retain his status of respect and quasi-authority before the local Government.

In respect of the Beys and Aghas mistaken notions are prevalent, such as that

the Turks fear them, or that they occupy formidable strongholds, and are strong enough to resist a military force, and hate their nominal masters; these ideas are clearly erroneous; the Kurds are not less loyal and trustworthy than other Ottoman subjects, though in rare parts of the mountain fastnesses they inhabit, the influence of the Government is scarcely perceptible. As to their "hating their nominal masters," perhaps, under present conditions, indifference, mingled sometimes with a touch of contempt, more accurately represents the state of mind of some Kurds. As to their power of resisting regular troops, I need only quote the "Ashiret" disturbances in Abagha, or the Susan affair of the previous autumn, to show that they have none. And it is notorious that the sound of a bugle, and the sight of a dozen uniforms in Hekkiari, is enough to restore immediate order. The real fact is that the Government are very rightly loath to employ military force till every other expedient has failed.

According to a statement of Armenian grievances published a year ago, these may be divided into five heads: taxation, character of officials, non-admission of Christian evidence, plunder and oppression, and political persecution.

1. *Taxation.—The Military Exemption Tax.*—Twenty-eight piastres is said to be the exact sum.

In Van the tax allotted out to the various parishes, and collected by a Mukhtar, usually an Armenian, the amount is broken up among the families irregularly; thus one family where there is only one male pays 80 piastres per annum, and another with three males 55 piastres. The wealthy pay more, of free consent, to make up for the deficiencies of those who cannot pay. In the villages the system is the same; it is not symmetrical, but in Turkey has many good points. No serious objection can be raised on the score of this tax.

The "Emlak" and "Timettu" taxes are distributed inequitably; there is a bias, in short, in favour of Moslems, and, moreover, distraint is cruelly executed and followed by ruin; there may be some truth in the former of these allegations without its amounting to a crying abuse, but the latter is inaccurate and unjust to the best of my belief.

The Ashar sale of the tithes, which is the best and cheapest method and the least repugnant to the peasant, allows of abuse and vexation. Complaints on this head are heard less frequently, and, personally, I believe the distribution and collection to be fairly well managed, and to be improving.

To sum up, taxes are heavy and the people extremely poor, but the taxation "grievances" is for the most part fictitious, nor is the pressure more burdensome on Armenians than any other communities.

2. *Character of Official.*—In respect of Van, to form a judgment, officials of a higher stamp and of better education are being selected; several Albanians are scattered about the vilayet in divers capacities, and they have generally the national energy and ardour; there is distinct improvement in the judicial and financial Departments, and Van fortunately possesses an excellent officer in the Alai-Bey of Gendarmerie; even in the Cazas, a good example at head-quarters and closer attention to duty combined with a demand for the same, is producing some effect.

3. *Non-Admission of Christian Evidence.*—Here again is nothing but a record of the pro-Moslem bias; by way of comment I will only refer to section 52 in Colonel Sir C. Wilson's Report on the Courts of Justice ("Turkey No. 8, 1881"). Since that Report was written, I think there are sure evidences of gradual progress made in the Courts in regularity, justice, and honesty.

4. *Plunder and Oppression.*—Most incidents of this nature which happen to be brought to my notice, are usually reported to Her Majesty's Consul for Kurdistan. The forcible conversion of women to Islam occupies a prominent place in the Armenian agitation, but during two and a quarter years residence at Van, I have only heard of about a dozen cases of Christian women passing into Mussulman households; some suggestions were submitted in a private letter to the late Mr. Lloyd on one occasion, but it will be observed that in one case a Christian woman who had been united to a Moslem was restored to the house of her birth (*vide* Inclosure in No. 53 of the 30th December, 1890).

5. *Political Persecution*, in so far as concerns Van, ceased eighteen months or more ago.

The whole matter of the Armenian grievances may be set down in two words—Moslem bias.

It must be confessed that the historically-admitted partiality shown in a thousand ways by the ruling race, to the prejudice, disadvantage, and degradation of the non-Moslem classes still exists; but is it not to be stated with equal truth that more than

apparent measures have been and are still being adopted on the part of the Government to eliminate such bias where in disaccord with the natural rights of man, as to his personal safety and freedom, his family, property, and reputation, and where contrary to the dictates of justice and reason?

The above remarks, with the proviso that they are not "white-wash," but genuine convictions, are intended to apply to Van in particular, but they may be taken generally for districts inhabited by Armenians. There is nothing exactly new or original about them, or that may not be collected from the Reports lately sent from Van, but it may be desirable to repeat such observations in consequence of the discussion of Armenian and Kurdish affairs up to date.

(Signed) GEORGE POLLARD DEVEY,
Van, January 12, 1891. *Her Britannic Majesty's Vice-Consul for Van.*

No. 18.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 9.)

(No. 65.)
Constantinople, February 24, 1891.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Acting Consul at Erzeroum, inclosing copies of two despatches from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van, of which the former treats of intimidating letters sent to the Armenians in Van, and the latter forwards further answers by the Turkish authorities to a list of crimes alleged to have been committed in the Van district.

I inclose also herewith a copy of a further despatch which Mr. Devey has addressed to Mr. Acting Consul Hampson, No. 5, of the 31st January, reporting the arrest of a number of young Armenians on a charge relating to intimidating and seditious letters to Armenians in Van, sent for the purpose of extorting money for the "national cause," to which reference is made in Mr. Vice-Consul Devey's above-mentioned despatch No. 2.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 18.

Acting Consul Hampson to Sir W. White.

Erzeroum, January 30, 1891.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Excellency herewith, in duplicate, Vice-Consul Devey's despatch of the 14th instant respecting intimidating letters sent to Armenians in Van, and of his despatch of the 17th instant forwarding further answers by the Turkish authorities to a list of crimes alleged to have been committed in the Van district.

With regard to the former, I have lately heard many vague rumours of combinations among Armenians in various directions. I can only trust that they may not be foolish enough to allow themselves to be led to steps which can only result in injury to their cause.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES HAMPSON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 18.

Vice-Consul Devey to Acting Consul Hampson.

Van, January 14, 1891.

Sir,

THE newest phase of Armenian agitation is the delivery of threatening anonymous letters to a few of the wealthier Armenians in this town to extort money for the "national cause." Such letters are usually written in good hand in the Armenian language, and are sometimes embellished with drawings of crossed daggers. They generally bid that the amount demanded, say, £ T. 20, be ever upon the recipient for payment on demand. In one case, it is said that a small sum was lodged by the Armenian threatened at the particular spot notified; but with this exception,

if indeed true, I am not aware that these letters have produced any result. It is perhaps superfluous even to take such manifestations very seriously, but the movement may be noticed as having reference to the incidents reported in my letters of the 11th and 27th November, and of the 6th December, 1890.

Before mid-day of the 6th instant a messenger, who is an Armenian bootmaker, delivered such a letter at the house of M. Maroutian, merchant, who on perceiving its contents sent his son to see from whom the demand came. The messenger told M. Maroutian, junior, that the man who sent it was waiting near, and went to fetch him, when this individual, who was muffled up, drew and fired a revolver, according to his (the messenger's) account, and hastily made off. The messenger afterwards stultified his previous story by pretending that M. Maroutian, the elder, had written the letter, and induced him to deliver it for a reward. It is, however, least improbable that the bearer of such a letter was in conspiracy with some one or more persons for extorting money by intimidation; and he is now in custody together with another suspected character.

Letters of the nature above described have been received during the past five or six weeks by Messrs. Nalbandian, Avakimian, Kaljian, Derboghosian Mirzakhanian, and two brothers named Garmirmornukian, all Armenians, and comparatively wealthy.

It is reported that in an Armenian village beyond the Persian border and in the district of Salmas two Mekhitarist priests are settled. These were warned by certain Armenians that they did not take sufficient interest in the national Armenian cause, and were threatened. Only a few days ago one of these was stabbed and murdered by an Armenian of the same village, if what I hear be correct.

A Mazbata was drawn up by Armenians of Van and transmitted to Constantinople about four weeks ago, renewing expressions of loyalty and thanking the Sultan for favours recently accorded to their Patriarch. This has been inserted in Constantinople newspapers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE POLLARD DEVEY.

Inclosure 3 in No. 18.

Vice-Consul Devey to Acting Consul Hampson.

Van, January 17, 1891.

Sir,

WITH reference to a despatch of the 30th ultimo and its inclosures, is herewith inclosed a further document, which was handed to me yesterday by the Vilayet Mektubji.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE POLLARD DEVEY.

Inclosure 4 in No. 18.

Vice-Consul Devey to Acting Consul Hampson.

Van, January 31, 1891.

Sir,

THREE days ago about a score of Armenians, mostly young men, were arrested here. It is understood that the purpose of the inquiry being held is to trace the writers of the threatening letters described in my despatch of the 14th instant, and I believe that the handwriting of some individuals among those apprehended bears close resemblance.

On the 24th instant another seditious letter was picked up in a church in the city. This letter, addressed to the Patriarchal Vicar, was said to represent opinions of certain members of the Armenian Synod of Etchmiazin, and recommended that the Murakhas-Vekil having worked sufficiently under the Turkish Government should now labour for the national cause, and that all wealthy Armenians be called upon to contribute. The Murakhas-Vekil handed the letter to his Secular Council, who destroyed it without remark, so that when a police officer inquired for the missive two or three days later it could not be produced.

The three Armenians, named Odian, Tarpinian, and Panirian, mentioned in my last, were charged and confessed the crime, declaring they were in need of money.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE POLLARD DEVEY.

Inclosure 5 in No. 18.

Supplementary Memorandum.

(Translation.)

IT was reported by the British Consul at Van that nine sheep had been carried off from Sivan village in the Van district by robbers of the Jellali tribe of Persia, and it has been shown in the "List" lately drawn up that though no information on this count had been lodged with the Government, still the case had been referred to the police Department for examination; by the Chief Commissary; it is now set forth in a report that restitution of these sheep has been brought about by the central Tabur-Aghassi of Gendarmerie.

It was asserted by the same Consul that in places between Van and Serai, chief town of Mahmudi, Caza, 18,000 stacks of hay had been burnt by bad characters of Arusan tribe of Persia; in respect of this arson, albeit no complaint had been made whatever, and though plain that 18,000 stacks could not possibly be found, still, as stated in the aforesaid "List," this allegation was referred also to the police department for examination.

The Chief Commissary of Police on this head reports the burning of the above quantity to be entirely without foundation, but adds that five or ten sacks were burnt in the villages of Mirek, Norshen, Janik, and Mermud, in which cases the culprits were, without exception, seized and delivered to the Courts of Justice.

The Consul stated that the Régie "Kolji" Tefur took by force from the village Keoshk in Van district, twelve "chaps" of corn; no complaint had been brought, but the matter was referred likewise to the police for inquiry, as set forth in the previous "List." The Chief Commissary now reports the seizure of twelve "chaps" to be devoid of truth, but adds that the "Mukhtar" and "Kiahya" of the said village avow they gave of free will two and a-half "chaps" to Tifur.

In the said "List" the Consul declared that some fifty sheep had been raided from Boghazik village under Van. No complaint was made on this subject; however, this matter also was referred to the same police Department, as previously shown. On this head the Chief Commissary reports, in reply, that some sheep stolen from this village have likewise been restored by the central "Tabur Aghassi" of Gendarmerie already.

In the same "List" the Consul advanced that cases of theft and robbery had occurred in Albak Caza, and its environs, and on the highways; thereon information was demanded, nothing being known from that place, as previously shown. In a telegram received from the Albak Kaïmakam, in reply, the allegations are declared entirely untrue, neither has any such complaint been lodged at all.

Again, in the same "List," the Consul stated that, at Kotranis village, in Julamerik Caza, a number of sheep had been stolen by Kurds whether from Shatlakh or Berwari, and further, a number had perished of disease; and it was set forth that, in the absence of all knowledge thereof, information had been demanded from Julamerik. In the telegraphic reply of the Mutessariff of Hekkiari, it is stated that about eight sheep belonging to this village were raided last autumn by the Sherefan tribe of Kurds, and that, upon petition, the accused were seized and delivered to the Court; and further, that it is declared by the Mukhtar of the village that no sheep died of disease, and that, with the exception of the number specified, no other sheep were stolen.

The Consul related that, according to one report, 5,000, and to another 15,000 had been raided by Kurds of the Heriki tribe and by robbers from Persia, in the Caza of Gevar and Shemdinan, and, as mentioned in the aforesaid "List," no information was available, but a question was asked of the Mutessarif of Hekkiari. A telegram, in reply from the Mutessariff, declares such reports without foundation; and says, the Kaïmakam of Gevar states there is perfect tranquillity, adding that he (the Mutessariff) will communicate the reply of the Shemdinan Kaïmakam when received.

As shown in the aforesaid "List," the Consul reported that sheep and cattle had been carried off from Kanghevar village, in Hamidiyyé Caza, by Shakir, who has

given sureties ("musteëmin"); and that a Kurd, at Kulan village, had laid open the head of another Kurd by a stone wound, and it was notified how that information had been asked of the Kaïmakam of that Caza. In the telegraphic reply of the Hamidiyyé Kaïmakam it is stated that, upon the declaration of the Mukhtar of Kanghevar, sheep and other beasts were not carried off by the said Shakir, and that no person's head was wounded by a stone in Kulan village.

No. 19.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March 9.*)

(No. 66. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, February 24, 1891.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 39 to your Lordship of the 31st ultimo, transmitting Mr. Acting Consul Hampson's despatch of the 16th January respecting the career of Hussein Agha, Mudir of Patnoss, I have the honour to forward herewith a copy of a further despatch from Mr. Hampson reporting that Hussein Agha left Erzeroum for Alashgerd on the 21st ultimo for the purpose of gaining information as to the number of horsemen available in the Alashgerd district for the proposed Kurdish cavalry.

I have called the attention of the Grand Vizier to this information from Erzeroum.

In my despatch No. 524, Most Confidential, of the 6th December last, I transmitted to your Lordship a Memorandum by Colonel Chermside respecting the formation of this Kurdish cavalry. I now inclose a copy of a despatch from Mr. Acting Consul Hampson of the 30th ultimo reporting further on the same subject.

I have been for some time engaged in obtaining all the information I could on the subject of this proposed Kurdish organization, which appears to be at the present moment a pet scheme of the Sultan's. His Majesty looks upon it in a very different light from what an European would at the present time. He compares it in some way or other to the formation of Cossack militia regiments in Russia, or even to our Highland regiments after 1745.

His Majesty imagines that by organizing the Kurds in a military fashion he will introduce discipline among them, and create a very efficient and loyal cavalry, thus strengthening the defence of the border provinces of his Empire against a powerful military neighbour.

There is a great deal that might be *à priori* objected to the probable success of such a scheme, but it is no use talking to his Ministers about it, as they have nothing to do with it, and would never venture to speak to the Sultan unfavourably of a scheme upon which he looks upon as his personal work.

I have obtained, confidentially, a Memorandum on the subject from a high Turkish officer, a translation of which I beg to inclose, as well as one of an article in the Turkish newspaper "Tarik," which appeared some time ago.

We do not yet know sufficient about this scheme, which I personally view with apprehension, but I shall not cease to watch its progress and keep your Lordship informed of anything further I may learn with reference to it.

From the inclosure from the "Tarik" previously mentioned, and from one from the "Levant Herald," your Lordship will observe that a company of this new Kurdish militia is to do duty at Constantinople, and that seventeen Chieftains of these tribes have met at Moosh with a view to accompany the detachment coming to the capital.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 19.

Acting Consul Hampson to Sir W. White.

Sir, *Erzeroum, January 23, 1891.*

WITH reference to my despatch of the 16th January, I have now the honour to inform your Excellency that Hussein Agha of Patnoss left here with about ten followers for Alashgerd on the 21st instant. He is sent by the Vali to gain information as to the numbers of horsemen which can be provided with a view to the

cavalry which it is proposed to enrol by the various small tribes of Kurds in the Alashgerd district, the Chiefs of these tribes not having been considered of sufficient importance to be summoned here in person.

Hussein is a dangerous person to whom to intrust an official mission of any sort, and I have already been warned that we may shortly expect to have unpleasant evidence of his presence in Alashgerd.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES HAMPSON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 19.

Acting Consul Hampson to Sir W. White.

Erzeroum, January 30, 1891.

Sir,

ON the 26th November, 1890, while the late Consul Lloyd was at Constantinople, I informed him by telegram that the military authorities in this vilayet were organizing the Kurds as regiments of irregular cavalry, after the model of the Cossacks. On the 29th November I sent a second telegram, and also a letter, giving further particulars as to the plan in question. All I have since been able to learn on this matter has confirmed the substance of the information which I then sent, though there is still some uncertainty as to the exact details; and, as the local authorities, both military and civil, are extremely reticent on the subject, it is almost impossible to make any positive statement as to the final arrangements, even supposing them to have been decided.

It is, therefore, with some hesitation that I give your Excellency the following particulars, though I believe them to be fairly exact. Yahia Pasha, who commands the 8th Division of the 4th Army Corps in this town, has allowed to me that he thinks some such plan very probable, although he denies all official knowledge of it.

1. The number of horsemen which each tribe of Kurds can provide will be enrolled.

This has in many cases already been done, many of the Chiefs having visited this town and also Erzingian (the military centre) in person.

Ibrahim Pasha, Commander-in-chief of the cavalry of this army corps, passed through here early in December from Erzingian on his way to Alashgerd and Bayazid. His mission was admitted to be connected with the proposed Kurdish cavalry. After visiting the districts above named he returned to Erzingian.

2. The tribes will be called out for drill two months in each year.

During this period they will provide their own horses, but clothes, arms, food, and forage will be supplied by Government, and, it is said, they will receive pay.

This also applies to times of war.

3. Barracks will be built by Government at the centre of each tribe; and, after the yearly drill, the clothes and arms will be stored in these barracks, for which the Chiefs of the respective tribes will be held responsible.

4. Each tribe will be under the command of its own Chiefs, many of whom have already received military ranks up to and including that of Colonel. Officers above the rank of Colonel will be appointed from the higher officers of the Turkish regular cavalry.

Such I believe to be the main outline of the plan in question.

It is very difficult to ascertain the number of the cavalry which may be raised. The Turkish authorities are sanguine, and state that they expect by these means to have a force of 30,000 efficient horsemen. General opinion seems, however, to consider that from 10,000 to 12,000 will be about the number actually available.

As to the efficiency of this force, it must, of course, largely depend on the control which the superior officers may be able to exercise over it, and on the consequent discipline, or want of discipline, which may exist.

During the last two wars, the Kurds unfortunately proved themselves to be far more harmful than useful, being utterly useless in battle, pillaging and murdering the helpless, friends or foes alike, and ravaging and laying waste the country wherever they passed.

In this connection, it may not be without interest to quote the opinion of Consul Zohrab, written during the last war.

In his despatch of the 1st July, 1877, he states:—

"It is impossible to give an accurate estimate of the number of Kurds which the

suicidal policy of the Porte in calling any to arms has brought into the field. There cannot, however, be less than 30,000 spread over the districts of Bayazid, Van, Bitlis, and Moosh."

The horrors and atrocities committed by the Kurds at that time were terrible.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES HAMPSON.

Inclosure 3 in No. 19.

Memorandum.

(Translation.)

THE Kurds and Arabs of the nomadic tribes of the Ottoman Empire are exempted from the ordinary military service, on condition of holding themselves at the disposal of the Government for twenty-three years, and of keeping at their own expense a riding-horse and clothing made on a prescribed model.

The men subjected to this service of twenty-three years are divided into three classes:—

1. *The Preparatory Class.*—Young men from 17 to 20 years of age subjected each year to three months' drill at a place to be determined by the Government.

2. *The Active Class.*—Men from 20 to 32 years of age, doing regimental drill every two years, for one month at the depôt of the reserve (Redif) battalion, where their arms will be stored, and obliged to assemble, both in time of peace and in time of war, within twenty-four hours of the promulgation of an Imperial Iradé to that effect, in order to perform any military duty which may be required of them.

3. *Reserve Class.*—Men from 32 to 40 years of age, forming a reserve, destined to make good the losses sustained in time of war.

At the time of the assemblies in time of war and of peace, and during the performance of drill, the tribal cavalry will be paid and fed in the same way as that of the regular army.

The Colonels in command of regiments and the Captains in command of squadrons will be chosen from the regular cavalry, and will have a fixed residence among the tribes, in order to maintain order and discipline, to facilitate their relations with the civil authorities, to assist in the collection of taxes, and help in the drills together with the officers detached specially as instructors at the times fixed for such operations.

The men of the tribal cavalry being considered as being always with the colours, will be subjected to courts-martial in case of crimes or misdemeanours.

Each regiment should number at least 750 men, and each squadron 150 horsemen belonging to the second class.

The officers of the regiments will be chosen from among the Notables of the tribes; those who, after having passed a fixed time in the military colleges or in the regular cavalry, return to their homes, will always continue to receive the fifth of the salary of officers of their rank.

A regiment composed of detachments from all the other regiments will reside in the capital, attached to the person of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan.

The officers and men of this regiment will be changed every year.

Inclosure 4 in No. 19.

Extract from the "Tarik" of February 8, 1891.

(Translation.)

WE learn that the enlisting of the cavalry regiments which it has been decided to raise in Arabia, Kurdistan, and Asia Minor (Anatolia) has been already commenced; that one or two companies of these regiments, which are to form part of the 4th Army Corps, are to be sent to Constantinople, where they are to be the objects of special favours; that two companies from Erzeroum, Van, and Bitlis have been dispatched for Constantinople, where they will be reviewed by His Imperial Majesty the Sultan at the Selamlik, and then permitted to return to their native country.

Inclosure 5 in No. 19.

Extract from the "Levant Herald" of February 24, 1891.

THE IMPERIAL ARMY.—It was stated lately that the Sultan had ordered that a detachment from the new Ertoghroul cavalry regiments, which are being formed in Asia Minor from contingents furnished by the Arab Kurdish tribes, should be sent to Constantinople to be presented to His Imperial Majesty at the ceremony of the Selamlik. The Turkish papers state that, in pursuance of this order, seventeen Chieftains of the tribes camped around Moush have left for the head-quarters of the 4th Army Corps, whence they will come to Constantinople. They will be accompanied by a detachment of eighty-five horsemen.

No. 20.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 9.)

(No. 77.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, March 2, 1891.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van, which has been forwarded to me from Her Majesty's Acting Consul at Erzeroum, reporting demonstrations which were made by Armenians at the Mutrakhs-Khané of Van, and at the Russian Consulate in that town.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 20.

Vice-Consul Devey to Acting Consul Hampson.

Sir, *Van, February 9, 1891.*

ON the afternoon of the 4th instant a foolish demonstration was made at the Mutrakhs-Khané int his town by about 100 Armenians of no particular position, but amongst whom were probably many relations of the young men recently arrested (*vide* my preceding despatch); apparently their object was to make a parade of discontent, for they blamed the Mutrakhs-Vekil, Thaddeus Vartabed, for not caring sufficiently for their community's affairs, and protesting that innocent Armenians had been arbitrarily arrested; they turned him out of the room in which the Armenian Council usually deliberates, and locked it. The Vartabed sent word to the authorities, and by the time that the police arrived on the scene the turbulent Armenians had already retired. These proceedings naturally attracted the notice of a small crowd of spectators.

Thaddeus Vartabed has refused to denounce the disturbers of his peace, and I believe he really received three warning letters, one of which has only been reported on (*vide* my preceding despatch), but asserts that he destroyed them as soon as aware of the nature of the contents.

About 5 P.M. on the same day from forty to fifty Armenians came together to the Russian Consulate, and four or five entered as spokesmen, while the rest were desired to withdraw a little distance. I believe they pretended that many Armenians wished to enter the Orthodox Church, and went on to say that the freshly-taken prisoners were maltreated, denied water, and abused in other ways. Two or three of these individuals were arrested next day, one being Joniun Hovsep, who had locked the chamber in the Patriarchal vicarage and carried away the key; his son is among the prisoners.

This latter demonstration is very strongly disapproved by most respectable Armenians, and it is not to be supposed for a moment that any person will change his Church. There was a vague rumour that some 2,000 villagers desire to join the Orthodox Church, but, to the best of my judgment, this was merely a symptom of factitious discontent.

Not more than twenty-five or twenty-six arrests have been made, and one prisoner, a youth named Derboghsian, is said to have escaped. Whispered rumours are again sedulously circulated that the prisoners have been maltreated and tortured, but I feel pretty sure that there is not more truth in them than there was on the occasion reported in despatch of the 26th May, 1890.

A fortnight ago I believe a Mazbata was drawn up by certain Armenians ascribing the present effervescence to laxness and apathy on the part of the Vali and local authorities. It is at least some satisfaction to find that the Government can no longer be attacked for arbitrary persecution and the brutal and criminal manner in which arrests are made. As to the charge of laxness and apathy, I venture to think that the local authorities have been acting with patience and discretion in attaching little noticeable importance to this latest phase of agitation.

Another Mazbata was in preparation, if my intelligence be not mistaken, two days ago, purporting that Thaddeus Vartabed might advantageously be replaced in his charge as Mutrakhs-Vekil; and this opinion coincides with one which I had the honour to express in a despatch of the 13th April, 1889; a reference to these words might not be out of place.

I have reason to believe that there can be no reasonable doubt of the writers of the anonymous letters being among the prisoners, only the chain of evidence is not quite complete. Rumour announces that most of these prisoners will shortly be set at liberty, and perhaps it would be wise to discharge those merely suspected or found to be accessory. It is reported that all the political prisoners, seventy-six Armenians, at Constantinople have been freed.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE POLLARD DEVEY.

P.S. *February* 11, 1891.—Seven prisoners have been released.

G. P. D.

No. 21.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir W. White.

(No. 61.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, March 10, 1891.*

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency herewith a question which was addressed to Her Majesty's Government in the House of Commons on the 5th instant as to whether any prosecution has yet been instituted against any Mahommedans implicated in the Erzeroum disturbances on the 20th June last; and I shall be glad if you will report to me what steps the Porte proposes to take in the matter.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 22.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 16.)

(No. 20.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, March 16, 1891.*

MR. DEVEY states, with reference to the paragraph in the "Daily News" of the 10th March, that he has not made any written or verbal protest as therein alleged.

No. 23.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir W. White.

(No. 69.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, March 17, 1891.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 63 of the 23rd ultimo, inclosing a copy of a despatch from the British Vice-Consul at Diarbekir, in which M. Boyadjian reports a brutal outrage recently perpetrated by a number of Kurds upon a party of travellers in the immediate neighbourhood of Farkin, the seat of the Sub-Governor of Silivan.

You also inclose a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Acting Consul at Erzeroum reporting that an Armenian had been beaten to death by zaptiehs who were quartered in his house, situated in the neighbourhood of Bitlis.

Her Majesty's Government trust that the prosecution of the Kurds will be energetically proceeded with, and that the Sub-Governor of Silivan will be properly punished for his gross neglect of duty.

With regard to the zaptiehs, Her Majesty's Government hope that the Porte will lose no time in bringing to justice the perpetrators of the outrage.

Your Excellency has already brought these two cases to the notice of the Grand Vizier, but I have to request that you will impress on his Highness the necessity of energetic steps on the part of the Porte.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 24.

Consul Peacock to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 20.)

(No. 4.)
My Lord, *Batoum, February 10, 1891.*

IN the latter part of the last year it was discovered by special Local Government Agents, that certain Armenians residing and trading at Baku had been secretly collecting funds with the view to assist the agitators in Turkish Armenia, and that private meetings were being held to discuss as to the most effectual means by which the Armenians of the Caucasus in connection with those of Turkey could secure autonomy to themselves. It was further elicited that clandestine correspondence had been carried on between some Armenian patriots of this country and the Armenian Patriotic Association in London, or the supporters of its organ the "Haïasdan."

These proceedings on the part of actually but a very small number of the Armenian population, the local authorities did not consider of an imminently grave and threatening character, and the persons discovered or suspected to have shown more patriotic zeal than the natives of this country are permitted to show, have been neither arrested nor punished in any other way. Nevertheless, the whole personnel of the gendarmerie at Baku and its vicinity, for having been dozing and not having reported in due time the above-mentioned agitation, has been dismissed and replaced by more vigilant agents.

I have, &c.
(Signed) D. R. PEACOCK.

No. 25.

Consul Peacock to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 20.)

(No. 5.)
My Lord, *Batoum, February 10, 1891.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 4 of to-day, I have the honour to report that upon the whole the late events connected with the Armenian difficulties in Turkey, have not failed to call forth a somewhat increased manifestation of national aspirations among the Armenians of this country.

During the election, in January of this year, of the Mayor for Tiflis, no efforts had been spared to gain the majority of votes in favour of M. Matinoff, an Armenian by birth and feelings; the Armenian Benevolent Societies are being supported by a larger number of Armenians, rich and poor, and in a more liberal manner than it was usual before; of the vernacular press in the Caucasus, the largest share does actually belong to the Armenians, who besides having issued for this year quite an exceptionally great number of different editions of Armenian almanacks, some of which being illustrated with the portraits of famous or popular Armenian writers, views of Etchmiadzin and other Armenian monasteries of historical interest; Armenian literature and history have perhaps never yet been the subject of so generally popular a study among the educated Armenians as it is at the present time, and it is becoming quite the rule, which was not the case even a year ago, that Armenians, not excepting those knowing the Russian language as well as, if not better, than their own, will use in conversation, whether at home or in society, exclusively the Armenian language.

Such and similar manifestations reflecting, as it is maintained, the aspirations of those Armenian patriots who believe that the time must come when autonomy will have to be granted to their nation, have certainly become more frequent and general since the Armenian disturbances in Turkey.

There are Russians, and among such also local officials of responsible positions,

who seriously consider the apparently innocent display of Armenian patriotism as a prognostic of contingent trouble, and precautionary measures have been taken, therefore, to watch what is deemed to be the incipient tendency towards separation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) D. R. PEACOCK.

No. 26.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 20.)

(No. 88.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March 13, 1891.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 59 of the 19th February, reporting the dismissal of Ahmed Bey from the post of Kaïmakam of Alashgerd, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that Hamid Bey* has been appointed successor to Ahmed Bey, but has not yet left for his post.

I transmit to your Lordship a copy of a despatch from Acting Consul Hampson, detailing crimes of which Ahmed Bey is said to have been guilty.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 26.

Acting Consul Hampson to Sir W. White.

Sir, *Erzeroum, February 21, 1891.*

IN my despatch of the 6th instant I had the honour to mention to your Excellency the nomination by the Vali of Erzeroum, at the beginning of November last, of a certain Ahmed Bey, a well-known bad character, and son of a noted brigand, as provisional Kaïmakam of Alashgerd. This appointment has not yet been confirmed from Constantinople, and in case your Excellency may see fit to take measures to prevent the confirmation of such a man in an official position, I beg to lay before you the following facts in his career.

Ahmed Bey and his three brothers were the sons of a powerful Kurdish Chief and brigand, Sirmeli Mehmed Pasha, who, before the war, virtually ruled the whole of the district of Alashgerd around Toprak-Kaleh.†

Shortly before the war, Ahmed and his brothers murdered, in his own house at Toprak-Kaleh, a Circassian, Omar Bey, at that time Kaïmakam of Alashgerd, with his brother, daughter, and a servant. Ahmed's three brothers were killed in this affair, but he himself escaped. For this crime he was exiled to Diarbekir, but, during the confusion of the war, returned to Toprak-Kaleh. At the time of his exile, an order was given by the Sublime Porte that neither he nor any of his family were thenceforth to receive any official appointment.

About three years ago, when returning from a hunt, the dogs of a certain Suleiman Effendi, of Toprak-Kaleh, attacked Ahmed's dogs. He ordered his attendants to shoot them. By design or accident, three children of Suleiman were shot.

As farmer of the tithes, he used to behave in the most oppressive and illegal manner; for instance, if a load of flax was due to him, valued at 60 piastres, he would refuse to accept the load, but insist on being paid 150 piastres instead. Crops were frequently burnt under his auspices, and many other acts of oppression took place.

He was summoned here by the late Vali, Samih Pasha, to answer for his crimes, and was actually expecting sentence of banishment when, at the beginning of November last, the present Vali named him provisional Kaïmakam of Alashgerd in the place of the existing Kaïmakam, whom he suspended.

For the first month or two Ahmed kept tolerably quiet in his new position, but latterly, gaining confidence, he has been gradually returning to his old courses. He forcibly collects large sums of money from the Armenian villagers in his district, and maltreats all such as won't or can't pay.

* See No. 97, March 16, (1) Halim Effendi.
† He was eventually exiled to Tripoli, where he died

A certain Sirkis, son of Avedis, of the village of Khunzir, was sent from here under arrest to Topruk-Kaleh, being found without a passport. Ahmed caused him to be so severely beaten in prison that he died from his injuries. He has also thrown some twenty Armenians into prison on trifling charges, where some of them have already remained for many weeks.

Such are a few of the facts, well established as far as anything can be in these parts, in the career of this man, who now holds an official position in which he hopes to be confirmed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES S. HAMPSON.

No. 27.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 20.)

(No. 89.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 13, 1891.

WITH reference to the rumoured formation of Kurdish cavalry militia regiments reported from Kurdistan, I had the honour to send to your Lordship all the information I was able to collect, in my despatch No. 66, Confidential, of the 24th February, which has evidently crossed, on its way, your instructions in despatch No. 51 of the 28th February, with reference to the question asked in the House of Commons as to the enrolment of Kurds and Circassians in the provinces inhabited by Armenians.

The information obtained by me on the subject is as yet extremely scanty. The Porte does not appear to have any control of these matters, which fall exclusively to the task of the local military authorities, directed either from the Seraskierat or from the Palace, without there being any necessity of either consulting or reporting to the Sublime Porte.

I shall, however, not fail to continue to give the subject my constant attention, and I may add, with regard to the question asked in Parliament, that the Grand Vizier denies the existence of any body of Circassians in the districts alluded to, and that it is believed here in official circles, that the great activity displayed at the commencement, in the organization of the Kurds as disciplined soldiers of the Turkish reserve forces, though taken up at first with great zeal, will not be followed up by similar activity in the long run.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 28.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 20.)

(No. 91.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 14, 1891.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copies of two despatches addressed by Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van to Her Majesty's Acting Consul at Erzeroum, reporting upon recent crimes of violence which have come to Mr. Devey's knowledge.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 28.

Vice-Consul Devey to Consul Lloyd.

Sir, *Van, November* 11, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to collect and summarize some observations upon recent crimes of violence which have come to my knowledge.

Temir Agha, Chief of the Mukuri Kurds, as mentioned in my despatch No. 45, was assassinated at night in Serai town, and, it is surmised, by Kurds of another tribe; but the crime has not yet been brought home.

An Armenian named Avak was murdered in the village Mendan by Kurds. It is believed the crime was instigated by Eyub Khan, of the neighbouring village Dibekh (both are on the skirts of Mount Akta), who is a descendant of the famous Khan Mahmud, and a careful inquiry is being held.

An Armenian youth, Movses, was wounded by a Kurd named Ismail, in Shattakh; the culprit has just been brought here for trial.

An Armenian of Ablagans village, near this town, lately pleaded guilty to the charge of manslaughter of a Kurdish peasant; his excuse is that the Kurd was purposing to rob him; and possibly an effort will be made to mitigate the penalty of five years' imprisonment, to which he was condemned.

At Kock village, near Van, Sarkis, an Armenian, wounded Yusuf Bey, a Kurd. The Armenian states that the latter entered his house by night with intent to rob; and I understand cross summonses have been taken out.

Three Armenians of Mazruk village, near Lake Archag, were assaulted and wounded by Kurds whilst on the high road. One has since died, but it is said he was of disreputable character. The facts are being inquired into.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE POLLARD DEVEY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 28.

Vice-Consul Devey to Consul Lloyd.

Sir, *Van, November* 27, 1890.

I UNDERSTAND that in the murder case of Mendan Izdinsher Bey, a son of Eyub Khan has been convicted chiefly by circumstantial evidence; further that there is hope that the Mazruk homicides will soon have been traced. These incidents were reported in my despatch of the 11th November.

Dikran Effendi, mentioned in my despatch No. 46, has entirely recovered from the trifling injury he sustained. The sensation created by the incident has passed away, though the true facts have not yet come to light. The boy who brought Dikran Effendi the anonymous letter remains in prison, as he pretends to be unable to identify the person who delivered it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE POLLARD DEVEY.

No. 29.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 20.)

(No. 92.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 14, 1891.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 89 of the 13th instant, I have the honour to inclose herewith copy of a despatch I have received from Mr. Acting Consul Hampson, covering a translation from the local official paper on the subject of the scheme for the formation of a Kurdish irregular cavalry, which is causing considerable uneasiness among the Armenians in the district of Erzeroum.

Your Lordship will find the only details I have been able to obtain as to this scheme, undertaken ostensibly to strengthen the defences of Turkey in that quarter, in my despatches No. 66, Confidential, and No. 89, of the 24th ultimo and 13th instant respectively.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 29.

Acting Consul Hampson to Sir W. White.

Erzeroum, February 28, 1891.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inclose the translation of an article published in the official local paper, regarding the formation of the Kurds into a regiment of irregular cavalry, and of the forthcoming visit of some of the Chiefs to Constantinople.

These Chiefs left Erzeroum last week for Erzingian, whence they will proceed to the capital.

As I have before stated to your Excellency, this measure of arming the Kurds is regarded with great anxiety here. This feeling is much increased by the conduct of the Kurds themselves, many of whom openly state that they have been appointed to suppress the Armenians, and that they have received assurances that they will not be called to answer before the Tribunals for any acts of oppression committed against Christians.

The Armenians in this town are very uneasy, and very many of those who are in position to be able to do so have expressed their intention of leaving Erzeroum as soon as the roads are open.

One of the highest Turkish officials here complained bitterly lately of the utter ignorance of the Vali in all matters of civil administration. At the same time he insists on directing and managing everything himself.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CHARLES S. HAMPSON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 29.

Extract from the "Envar Sharkié" of Erzeroum of February 20, 1891.

(Translation.)

WE have already announced that, in consequence of the request of the tribes which exist in the vilayets of Erzeroum and Bitlis to be enrolled as a sort of cavalry regiment, the Chiefs of the said tribes were invited by the Commander-in-chief of the 4th Army Corps to repair to head-quarters at Erzingian in order to discuss this proposal; and that, after a few days' deliberation, they received their orders and returned home.

We have lately learnt that certain of these tribes have now requested to be allowed to repair to Constantinople, and there exhibit their native customs and costumes to His Imperial Majesty the Sultan; and that His Majesty having been pleased to grant this request, the Chiefs in question have again gone to Erzingian in order that a decision and election may take place as to those who will be sent to the capital.

It cannot be doubted that, bold and intrepid as the Kurds, Chiefs and privates alike, are by nature and character, if they were regularly and continuously instructed and drilled by competent officers, and supplied with proper uniforms, arms, and the necessary horses, they would form a very effective division of the Imperial troops.

For the tribes of Kurds and Arabs within the limits of the Ottoman Empire, by reason of the conditions under which they live, of the localities where they dwell, abounding in pure air and water, and of their manner of life, are, for the most part, strong of body and constitution, and free from sickness and disease; and being strong of limb and in continual exercise, they are, from their earliest years, devoted to riding and the use of arms. In addition to this, owing to the existence of ranks among themselves, they are accustomed to discipline and obedience.

For all these reasons it will be recognized by all, great and small, that, if they be granted the protection and patronage of the Sultan, and be enrolled among the regular troops, they will justly gain much in *esprit de corps*, and become a brave and determined body of soldiers.

No. 30.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 20.)

(No. 94.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, March 14, 1891.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 63 of the 23rd February, transmitting a copy of Mr. Acting Consul Hampson's despatch No. 10 of the 30th January, I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of a further despatch from Mr. Hampson, which incloses one from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van, reporting upon the outrage committed by zaptiehs near Bitlis upon an Armenian, which resulted in the latter's death.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 30.

Acting Consul Hampson to Sir W. White.

Erzeroum, February 28, 1891.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch of the 30th January, 1891, regarding the reported beating to death by zaptiehs of an Armenian at a village near Bitlis, I have now the honour to forward to your Excellency, in duplicate, the answer received from Her Britannic Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van to my inquiries on this subject, from which it would appear that the account previously sent by me of this outrage was unhappily correct.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CHARLES S. HAMPSON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 30.

Vice-Consul Devey to Acting Consul Hampson.

Van, February 14, 1891.

Sir,

WITH reference to yours of the 2nd instant, I have the honour to state that there is unhappily reason to believe that the outrage therein narrated is founded on fact.

I learn that, on the 7th ultimo, a son of the Bitlis Alai Bey, accompanied by several zaptiehs, who were Circassians, and numbered forty [?], went to an Armenian hamlet, Hormuz, and passed the night at the house of a certain Hachik; this man was maltreated for taking measures to protect his honour and died. A Mussulman doctor, with two pharmacians, sent to hold an inquiry, ascribed the death to natural causes and not to violence.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE POLLARD DEVEY.

No. 31.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 20.)

(No. 97.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, March 16, 1891.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 88 of the 13th instant, reporting the appointment of the new Kaimakam of Alashgerd in place of Ahmed Bey, I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Acting Consul at Erzeroum, containing information as to Halim Effendi, who has been named as Kaimakam of Alashgerd.

Mr. Hampson in his despatch also reports the return of Hussein Aga of Patnos to that district and the expectations of trouble consequent thereon.

For previous information respecting Hussein Aga, who left Erzeroum for Alashgerd on the 21st January for the purpose of gaining information as to the horsemen available for the formation of the new Kurdish cavalry, I would refer your Lordship to my despatch No. 66, Confidential, of the 24th February.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 31.

Acting Consul Hampson to Sir W. White.

Erzeroum, March 7, 1891.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch of the 21st February, concerning the appointment of a well-known bad character, Ahmed Bey, as provisional Kaïmakam of Alashgerd, it is with much satisfaction that I have now the honour to announce to your Excellency that this man has been dismissed, and that a certain Halim Effendi, a native of Kars, and, as far as I can learn, an official of good reputation, has been appointed from Constantinople to the post. I trust that this measure will have a very good effect in the Alashgerd district.

At the same time, I learn from a reliable source that the expectations of trouble consequent on the return of Hussein Aga, Mudir of Patnoss, to that district, have proved only too true (see my despatches of the 16th and 23rd January). In his capacity as Mudir, Hussein has thrown over twenty Armenians into prison on no charges at all, or on vague accusations of being in correspondence with the Russian Armenians. Since his return he has forcibly collected nearly 1,000 sheep from the villages round, as also seven pairs of buffaloes from Patnoss and Kizilkah. These animals appear to have been seized from Christians and Mussulmans alike, and Hussein is already in Treaty with a merchant in this town for their sale. He has appropriated a valuable horse, the property of an Armenian, Manouk, of Kizilkah, which he is said to intend to present to the son of Ismaïl Effendi, President of the Criminal Court of Appeal in Erzeroum, with whom he is on the best terms (*vide* my despatch of the 16th January).

Fifteen days ago Hussein, with his nephew, entered by night the house of an Armenian named Caspar, in Patnoss, with the intention of carrying off Caspar's daughter-in-law, a very beautiful young woman. The inhabitants of the house cried out for help, on which Hussein drew his revolver and fired, killing the young woman on the spot.

No steps have been taken to punish this crime; in fact, Hussein takes every possible precaution to prevent the stories of his proceedings from spreading, forbidding all persons from leaving the villages under his sway. It is consequently very difficult to obtain confirmation of these allegations, but my information comes from a good source, and is, I believe, trustworthy. I am assured, moreover, that thirty witnesses could be produced to testify to every one of the crimes alleged, both those now reported and those which I have previously brought to your Excellency's notice. At present, protected as he is supposed to be by the authorities, no one dares to raise a voice against him. Such is the terror that he now inspires that the Murakhass (Armenian Bishop) of Alashgerd has fled to Bayazid.

The dismissal of Ahmed Bey from his post as Kaïmakam raises hopes that possibly some steps may also be taken to put an end to the of outrages Hussein Aga. If this were done, there would seem to be a fair prospect of the Alashgerd district being restored, for the moment at least, to a tolerable state of order.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CHARLES S. HAMPSON.

No. 32.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir W. White.

(No. 17.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, March* 23, 1891.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 97 of the 16th instant. You should communicate to the Grand Vizier the statements as to Hussein Agha's conduct made to you by Acting Consul Hampson; and you should impress upon his Highness the necessity of taking immediate steps to withdraw him from the district of Alashgird, and to cause an inquiry to be made into the crimes which he is stated to have committed.

No. 33.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 3.)

(No. 98.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 20, 1891.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Acting Consul at Erzeroum reporting movements of troops in Kurdistan.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 33.

Acting Consul Hampson to Sir W. White.

Sir, *Erzeroum, March* 7, 1891.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that orders have been given for the transfer of the 7th division of the 4th Army Corps from Kharput, where it is at present, to this town, and of the 8th division, now stationed here, to Bitlis. These orders are to take effect during the present month.

As your Excellency is aware, the 4th Army Corps, of which the head-quarters are at Erzingian, consists of two divisions, the 7th and 8th, of which the former, up till now, has had its centre at Kharput, and the latter at Erzeroum.

A battery of artillery, consisting of six mountain guns, is also about to be sent to Van, selected from the artillery force in this town.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CHARLES S. HAMPSON.

No. 34.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 3.)

(No. 100. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 25, 1891.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Acting Consul at Erzeroum, reporting the visit of the Vali to Passen, and containing observations on his Excellency's energy in his recent action in Erzeroum.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 34.

Acting Consul Hampson to Sir W. White.

(Confidential.)

Sir, *Erzeroum, March* 14, 1891.

ON Thursday last I had the honour to send your Excellency a telegram announcing the sudden departure of the Vali for Passen. The cause of this journey is still unknown, but his Excellency is expected back here in the course of to-day. All that is known is that on Wednesday morning the Vali received a telegram, that he at once ordered his sleigh, "for a drive round the town," and that, once outside the gates, he went off straight for Passen.

Of course, this proceeding has given rise to many rumours. According to some accounts, disturbances had already taken place among the Armenians; according to others, it had been discovered that the Armenians had got large stores of arms; others again declare that this journey was undertaken in consequence of information received by the Vali of irregularities and negligence in the Local Government in Hassan Kala.

Meanwhile, it is with satisfaction that I am able to report to your Excellency that my confidence in the energy, determination to maintain order and justice (even if somewhat rough and ready), of the Vali is being confirmed. As a small instance of his Excellency's promptness, I may mention that during the Armenian Carnival, when drunkenness usually prevails, he gave orders for the closing of all wine shops and for the arrest of all who might be found drunk in the streets, Christian and Mussulman alike. He is, doubtless, obstinate and autocratic, and ignorant of civil procedure, and it is a question whether a more conciliatory policy would not be advisable, but I believe thoroughly in his honesty and good intentions. He seems also to be winning the confidence of the lower classes, Mussulman, at least; the Armenians are in a state of mind in which it would be difficult for any one to gain their confidence.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES S. HAMPSON.

No. 35.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 3.)

(No. 110.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 25, 1891.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Acting Consul at Erzeroum, inclosing two despatches from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van, in the latter of which Mr. Devey reports an affray which has taken place between the Kurdish villages of Arjish Caza.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 35.

Acting Consul Hampson to Sir W. White.

Erzeroum, March 14, 1891.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Excellency herewith copies in duplicate of Vice-Consul Devey's despatches, the former respecting Armenian affairs in Van, the latter as to an affray between Kurds near Arjish.

In this town the Armenians are at present very quiet, but the uneasy feeling is rather on the increase than on the decrease, and every opportunity of procuring revolvers or other arms, even at three times their value, is eagerly seized.

Mrs. Clifford Lloyd, when selling various things, preparatory to her departure, was constantly applied to by those anxious to buy guns and pistols. These requests were, needless to say, refused.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES S. HAMPSON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 35.

Vice-Consul Devey to Acting Consul Hampson.

Van, March 2, 1891.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch of the 9th ultimo, it has been known here for some time past that the Armenian Vartabet, Hovsep Ayvazian, has been nominated to Van as Patriarchal Vicar, and this dignitary will be leaving Constantinople shortly.

On the morning of the 12th ultimo a seditious placard was found posted on the doors of the Post Office; it was of course promptly taken down, and the incident attracted little attention. The author of this Armenian paper has not been traced; but there have been no more threatening letters.

I understand that of the twenty-five prisoners, mentioned in No. 9 [? 6], seven only will be convicted, on the clearest evidence, of seditious practices; the remainder,

not directly implicated, will probably be dismissed with a caution. Six or seven have already been set at liberty. No sentence has as yet been passed in respect of the crime, reported in my despatch No. 4.

During the last eight days I have had reason to believe that certain Armenians of this city were proposing to draw up a Declaration in which the signatories would profess [*sic*] their conversion to the Orthodox Church, and would ask for Russian priests to be sent to guide them; it was intended to communicate this manifesto, on completion, to the Russian Consul, and some 350 signatures have been attached or promised up to date; these proceedings are of course strictly secret, and, I believe, only the poorest and lowest classes of the inhabitants share in them. The day before yesterday I inquired of the Vali privately whether the existence of any such movement was to be believed in, and his Excellency was unaware of anything of the kind; his opinion, coincident also with mine, was that rumours as to embracing Orthodoxy were mere vapid talk—no Armenian would go so far as to profess formal adherence to the Orthodox Church. However, his Excellency took immediate steps to be further informed on this subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE POLLARD DEVEY.

P.S.—*March* 3. Three more prisoners were released to-day.

G. P. D.

Inclosure 3 in No. 35.

Vice-Consul Devey to Acting Consul Hampson.

Van, March 3, 1891.

Sir,

I HEAR there has been some fighting between two Kurdish villages of Arjish Caza, in which four lives were lost. Of those who took part, or were to blame in this disturbance, the greater part went at once to Erzeroum in the expectation doubtless that, upon volunteering for the mooted Kurdish military organization, their conduct would be overlooked or forgotten. No Armenian was concerned in this affair.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE POLLARD DEVEY.

P.S.—The villages are Chakir Bey and Hassan Avdor, situated, I think, in Zilan-Dereh.

G. P. D.

No. 36.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 3.)

(No. 112.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 27, 1891.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Aleppo, transmitting Petitions addressed to me by Armenian political prisoners at Marash, and, in doing so, I would beg to call attention to the opinion expressed by Mr. Jago, that the complaints made in general terms by the petitioners of ill-treatment in prison are exaggerated, and that their own folly in irritating and alarming the authorities, without the least prospect of success, is chiefly to blame for their present position.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 36.

Consul Jago to Sir W. White.

Aleppo, March 14, 1891.

Sir,

REFERRING to my despatch of the 6th ultimo on the subject of complaints made by Armenians at Pyass and Marash, of arbitrary imprisonment and oppressive conduct by the Turkish authorities on account of alleged revolutionary tendencies, I have the honour to transmit to your Excellency, at the request of the writers, further Petitions in the same sense addressed to me with regard to the political prisoners at Marash, and which are as follows:—

1. A letter, unsigned, from the Rev. Mr. Christie, American missionary at Marash, inclosing a statement in Armenian, dated the 18th February, 1891.

2. A letter, also unsigned, from Mr. Christie, inclosing a Petition from the petitioners in French, dated the 25th February.

3. A letter from Dr. Shepherd, Physician of the American Central Turkey Mission at Aintab, dated Marash, the 4th March, 1891.

Since the above were written, the prisoners, forty-three in number, including the Archbishop and two priests, all of Zeitoun, have arrived here (on the 8th instant) from Marash, and are now confined in the debtors' quarter of the prison of Aleppo, pending the investigation of their cases before the local Tribunals, the "dossier" having been sent from Marash by orders of the Porte. Fifteen horses and mules were employed in bringing them here. They were not in irons, but bound by cords in the usual way to prevent escape; those on foot having their arms bound, and those on horseback their legs tied. They are receiving, besides prison rations, food from their co-religionists.

The native Protestant and Catholic American communities in the vilayets of Aleppo and Adana have carefully held aloof from participation in the matters which form the accusations brought against those of the ancient Armenian Church.

It is not possible for me to verify personally the statements of ill-treatment in prison which are made, but, as your Excellency may observe, such are invariably made in general terms, and I am inclined to think, from all I can learn, that they are exaggerated.

I shall refrain in future from transmitting to your Excellency repetitions of similar Petitions which I may receive, and will confine myself, when the time comes, to reporting the result of the pending trials in Aleppo. I ought not, however, perhaps to refrain from reporting to your Excellency the impression I have received, after diligent inquiry, and much communication with those acting on behalf of the prisoners, which is that the latter have themselves alone to thank for the trouble in which they find themselves, having acted most senselessly and childishly throughout this business; irritating and alarming the Turkish authorities without the slightest chance of success. Could the robber families of Zeitoun, about forty in number, be properly transferred to other regions, I believe that the tranquillity of these mountain ranges would not in future be disturbed, even by the fresh advent of emissaries from the Secret Committees.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. S. JAGO.

No. 37.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 3.)

(No. 113.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, March 28, 1891.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram to me No. 17 of the 24th instant, instructing me to urge the Grand Vizier to take steps for the withdrawal of Hussein Agha from Alashgerd, and for inquiring into the crimes of which he is alleged to be guilty, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship a copy of a Memorandum by Sir Alfred Sandison, reporting an interview he had with the Grand Vizier upon my instructions.

I shall not fail to inform your Lordship of any action taken in the sense of my representations by the Grand Vizier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 37.

Memorandum by Sir A. Sandison.

WITH reference to Lord Salisbury's telegram of the 24th March, 1891, regarding Hussein Agha, of Patnos, I have the honour to report that on Tuesday last, I made a strong representation to the Grand Vizier in the sense directed.

I also sent his Highness an extract from Mr. Acting Consul Hampson's despatch of the 7th March, 1891, setting forth the serious charges against Hussein "in his capacity as Mudir of Patnos," and urged upon his Highness the necessity of giving orders for Hussein's removal and recall to Erzeroum.

His Highness replied that he would first inquire on the subject from the Valis of Erzeroum, Van, and Bitlis, the two latter of whom are desirous of having Hussein tried in their respective vilayets

March 28, 1891.

No. 38.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 3.)

(No. 115.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, March 28, 1891.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Acting Consul at Erzeroum, inclosing one from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van, transmitting translation of a list of crimes and other incidents alleged to have occurred, and the Vali's answers thereto.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 38.

Acting Consul Hampson to Sir W. White.

Sir,

Erzeroum, January 16, 1891.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Excellency two copies of Vice-Consul Devey's despatch of the 30th December, inclosing the answers of the Vali of Van to the list of crimes alleged to have occurred in that Vice-Consular district, with Mr. Devey's remarks on these answers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES S. HAMPSON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 38.

Vice-Consul Devey to Consul Lloyd.

Sir,

Van, December 30, 1890.

UPON receipt of your despatch No. 27, I paid a visit to the Governor-General, and again addressed his Excellency upon the accusations made against Shakir, and also upon the numerous cases of sheep stealing and other crimes which have occurred lately. His Excellency was kind enough to fix an appointment and summoning the vilayet "Mektubji," caused him to note down the items as per list of crimes and other incidents (with translation) inclosed. This document, put in form of question and answer, was received by me a few days ago.

Shakir, it seems, had a very serious illness eight or ten weeks ago; he is scarcely yet convalescent, and certainly not in a fit state to be brought to this town.

In respect of administrative measures adopted with a view to preventing the recurrence of outrages in surrounding districts, recent letters may have thrown some light on this subject. The police force and the efficiency of the military have been raised, and measures have been taken to put a stop to border raids, and I also hear that the Persian authorities are likewise making a serious effort on their side.

I regret, however, to have to report that a bad raid took place at Khuzu village (*vide* No. 35) again some six weeks ago. Two men were killed and one wounded, and

450 sheep carried off; women are said to have had miscarriages through fright. The situation of this village, 6 or 7 miles from the bridge over the Bashkaleh stream (near which Major Clayton, then Vice-Consul at Van, had an encounter with robbers, I believe, on one occasion), and at the foot of wild frontier mountains, is peculiarly exposed, and the valleys around noted as the haunt of brigands. The malefactors in this case are said to have been a band of thirty, mostly Shikiak Kurds, from a distance of 25 miles across the border. Two Nestorians from the village are now here to put forward the case, which is meeting with the earnest attention of the Government, and special measures are, I understand, under consideration in view of the particular circumstances.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE POLLARD DEVEY.

Inclosure 3 in No. 38.

List of Crimes; and Answers.

(Translation.)

1. IT is reported that 300 sheep were raided from the village Zireklu, Adeljivaz Caza.

In the despatch from the Kaïmakam of that Caza, dated the 23rd October, 1306, the restitution of these sheep was announced.

2. By the Kurd named Mehé of Kiumar Nahiyyé, in Arjish Caza and his associates were stolen on the 1st September, 1306, 121 sheep, one donkey, and a few chattels, the property of an Aleppo sheep merchant named Mikhail.

The articles stolen were restored by the local authorities, and the culprits were arrested and delivered to the Courts of Justice.

3. From Zeranis village in Van district, on the 5th October, 1306, a number of sheep were stolen by robbers of the Arusan tribe of Persia.

The need of restitution has been announced to the Persian authorities.

4. Her Britannic Majesty's Consul asserts that forty cows were carried off from the village Kubobik, in Bergri Caza, by Arusan Kurds of Persia. The authorities are not aware of this, but a number of sheep were stolen in the beginning of September 1306, or thereabouts, by these Arusan.

Correspondence is being carried on with Persian authorities on this subject.

5. Two months ago seventy-one sheep were stolen from Aktash village under Van by Hasan Agha's men of the Alend tribe of Persia.

The sheep were restored by the authorities.

6. Some sheep were stolen on the 22nd October, 1306, from Dagveran village under Van by Mohammed Sheikh of Ijaré village, in Chaiperé Nahiyyé, in Persia, and others.

Correspondence is being carried on with the Persian authorities for restitution.

7. At Janik village under Van a quantity of corn was burnt, and a sheep stolen on the 15th October, 1306, by an Armenian and a Kurd.

The culprits were seized and delivered to the Court.

8. By Shahin, Markar, and companions of Ablacans village under Van, a Kurd of that village was killed 13th October, 1306.

The Armenian culprits were seized and delivered to the Court.

9. A quantity of corn and hay of Mirek village under Van was burnt 15th October, 1306, by an Armenian and a Kurd.

The culprits were seized and delivered to the Court.

10. Four or five months ago a number of sheep were carried off from Eskipak village under Van by Arusan Kurds of Persia.

The matter has been followed up and the sheep restored.

11. The man Sarkis, of Kosh village under Van, was wounded by Girdevanli-Oglu Yusuf Bey 25th August, 1306.

The culprit seized and delivered to the Court.

12. On the 14th October, 1306, the discharged soldiers, corporal Ibrahim and two privates, were robbed of money and goods at the Chukh Pass in Hekkiari, Sandjak.

The culprits were traced and delivered to the Court of Hamidiyyé, Caza.

13. The Consul asked whether the brigand, Gaso, has been found.

This robber, being a Persian, is going about in Persia.

14. A number of sheep have been stolen from Hamidiyyé Caza.

These have been found and given up to their owners.

15. Hay was burnt on the 15th October, 1306, at the Akhtamar monastery by Fakhi Bairam and Khlid.

The culprits were seized and delivered to the Court.

16. The Consul asserts that 700 sheep were stolen from the monastery Mezop (Kozlu) in Arjish Caza.

The sheep, sixty or seventy, not 700, have been all restored.

17. The Armenian Avak of Mendan village under Van, was killed on the 22nd October, 1306.

Upon inquiry Eyub Khan and his sons, Nuri and Izdinsher Beys, were seized upon suspicion and delivered to the Court.

18. Mardo, of Mazruk village under Van, was killed 22nd October, 1306, and his companion, Bagdo's, effects were plundered.

The culprits named Resho-a-Yezid, and his brothers, Khalo and Osman, were seized and delivered to the Court.

19. The Armenian, Movses, of Shattakh, was wounded 17th October, 1306.

The culprit, Girevanli Ismail, was seized and delivered to the Court.

20. From Satibeg village under Van 180 sheep were stolen 1st November, 1306.

The culprits have been seized and delivered to the Court.

21. The Consul announces that 240 sheep were stolen from Kasrik village, Hamidiyyé Caza, by Shikiak Kurds.

These sheep, being 120 head, were returned to the owners 1st November, 1306.

22. Two thousand sheep were stolen from Nestorians in the Cazas of Gevar and Oramar, Hekkiari Sandjak, by Persian brigands.

The need of restitution has been announced through the proper quarter to the Embassy at Tehran more than once.

23. A girl of the Nestorian community at Serai in Mahmudi Caza, Hekkiari, had come to the vilayet chief place in order to adopt Islam.

Lately, in presence of the Council, having changed her mind and desiring to revert to her original creed, a decision was come to on the 8th November, 1306, for restoring her to her mother, which was done.

24. From Taramagh village in Mukus Caza, Yego's wife Ehnas was carried off in 1305 (*i.e.*, 1889) by Jafar-ben-Husein and Genja-ben-Murad.

When ascertained on inquiry that the woman has been taken to Khizan Caza, much correspondence ensued between the Bitlis vilayet and Mukus Caza authorities, and a special agent was sent to Mukus that the woman should be produced.

25. The Consul inquires as to the conversion (to Islam) of Yego, husband of this woman Ehnas, and his three fellows.

These persons indeed came two or three months ago to the vilayet chief place to adopt Islam, but for certain reason their profession was not accepted and they were sent home.

26. The horses and other belongings of Shakir Bey, Kaïmakam of Bergri Caza, and of zaptieh Khorshid, whilst on the road were stolen by Arusan Kurds of Persia, December 10, 1306.

Of the objects stolen, two horses and a Remington rifle with thirty-two cartridges, &c., were got back by the Mahmudiyyé Kaïmakam, and the other articles are under inquiry and correspondence.

27. A number of sheep have been stolen from Shattakh Caza by Berwari Caza Kurds, Bitlis Vilayet.

Letters have been written to the Bitlis Vilayet for restitution.

28. As to robbery of any shops or house in Arjish Caza, and as to the carrying off of nine sheep by Gellali Kurds, of Persia, from Sivan village under Van, and as to burning of 18,000 stacks of hay in places between Serai Caza town and the neighbourhood of Van, and as to prevention from cultivating fields of Shahbagh villagers (Van Caza), by Sheikh Rifaat Effendi, guardian of vested interests of the Tekké, called Sheikh Abdurrahman Baba in Van, and as to a trifling quantity of corn being taken from Salkhane village of Hamidiyyé Caza by Derbaz Agha, ex-Mudir of the Shemsiki tribe, and as to the taking forcibly of twelve "chaps" of wheat from Keoshk village under Van by the ex-Régie, "Kolji" Tifur, and as to robbery of some sheep from Agjaveran village under Van, and 50 sheep stolen at Bogazik Village, and also robbery in and near, and on the roads of, Albak Caza, Hekkiari, and 25 sheep carried off from Kangevar village, Hamidiyyé Caza, and also a number of sheep of Kotranis village, Julamerik Caza, being carried off by brigands from Shattakh or Berwari whilst

others perished of cattle disease, and as to Mahmud Agha, of Arjish Caza, being secretly murdered, and a Kurd having beaten in the head of another Kurd with a stone, at Kulan village, Mamidiyyé; and as to by one report 5,000, and by another 15,000 sheep being plundered in Gevar and Shemdinan Cazas by Heriki or Persian Kurds, and as to the burning of hay of the man Panos, of Mars, and as to the doings of the robber Shakir ("Mustemen") who gave security for good conduct, viz., riding from Kangevar village, Hamidiyyé Caza, twenty-five beasts, and from Sheverash village Shattakh four beasts, and from the Miran tribe eighty head of sheep, and from the Dudera tribe one horse, from Purbedalan village Norduz Caza forty sheep, and from Zizans village Shattakh, twenty "chaps" wheat, and from Makasik village 8 trees being cut down, to build his own house upon which he also made 400 workmen and 100 carpenters to work by compulsion. The above were announced by the English Consul.

Last year, 1305, the house of Agop in Arjish Caza was broken into and things stolen, but they were found and the culprits are now in prison, and the Kaïmakam of that Caza reports by telegram that this year nothing of the kind has occurred, and as to the other reported robberies, no complaint open or secret has been made so far. Nevertheless, allegations relating to the Van district have been referred to the Police Administration, and those to the Cazas to the divers authorities for inquiry; and turning to the count of burning 18,000 stacks ("tiya") of hay, though quite impossible that there should be 18,000 stacks in the places mentioned, still the matter has been referred to the police; and as to the sheep stolen from Agjaveran village, the villagers have been questioned and deny any sheep being stolen, so that the statement is quite without foundation. The assassination of Mahmud Agha of Arjish is also without any foundation. And as to the hay of Panas, of Mars, being burnt by the watchmen of Kharagus, this was at first pretended but could not be proved in the examination; and as to Shakir's having cut down trees at Makasik, no village of this name is known.

Annotations upon List of Crimes.

4. Arusan Kurds were not mentioned as the malefactors, but simply Kurds.

7. The arson referred to took place before the end of last August. The village had petitioned, and their complaint was referred to the Van police, who, they declared, had neglected the matter so late as fifteen days afterwards. The incident here mentioned is, perhaps a later one.

11. Kosh: spelt Koch.

13. Gaso was understood to be a Turkish subject, if he was not at some time or other Mudir of a Turkish Nahiyyé.

24. This incident is the same as the conversion of two Armenian families mentioned in my despatch of the 5th April, 1890; and

25. It is said the four (corrected to two only) men in question, who are all relations or connections, have since become Moslem at Makus.

26. Evidently a mistake in the date, as the occurrence is mentioned in my despatch of the 31st October.

28. On several occasions lately there have been rumours of robbery in Agans town in the market and in houses, but, to the best of my knowledge, these were as often contradicted.

The charge was that nine sheep, or their value in money, was levied upon the village of Sivan, on Armenians and Kurds impartially, by a band of tribal Kurds. Possibly the village was willing to pay the amount of tribute, on the understanding that their property should not be harmed.

The Sheikh Abdurrahman Baba Pekké case is a complicated affair, arising out of a land law-suit, which the Armenians of Shahbagh won in the Courts of First Instance and of Appeal at Van some six years back, but is now being tried in the Court of Cassation at Constantinople.

It is difficult to pronounce upon the merits of such a case, as also upon a similar claim to lands disputed between Derbaz Agha and certain Van Armenians at Salakhané village (a Memorandum forwarded respecting Derbaz Agha and Salakhané, 8th February last). It is now stated that Derbaz Agha levied a considerable, rather than trifling, quantity of corn upon the Salakhané villagers.

There is no reason to doubt that Tifur blackmailed a dozen measures of wheat at the Armenian village Keoshk; nor that forty to fifty sheep were raided at Boghaz-Kessen village (Bogazik), of which the owners shortly contrived to regain possession.

As to Agjaveran, an Armenian village, if sheep were not stolen the pretension was that harm of some sort was inflicted upon the Armenians by Kurds.

As to the Kangevar charge of stealing twenty-five cattle or twenty-five sheep, it would appear that the same item had been repeated by error.

The next item of sheep-stealing at Kotranis was given on the authority of an English lady who passed through that village; possibly her informants misled her.

The secret murder of Mahmud Agha is a statement made upon the word of a person intimately acquainted with Arjish Caza affairs. M. Develay, a French traveller who passed through Arjish, heard of the same incident.

A Kurd slew another in Kurdalan (not Kulan) village, and was brought to justice.

Sheep looting in Gevar, Shemdinan, &c., Cazas, is mentioned in my despatch of the 31st October last.

The burning of hay of Panos of Marx forms the subject of a Memorandum sent last week.*

It is said that thirty-two villages in all have been looted of sheep in this neighbourhood during the past few months.

(Signed) GEORGE POLLARD DEVEY,
December 30, 1890. *Her Britannic Majesty's Vice-Consul for Van.*

Memorandum respecting Shakir and Tifur.

The facts relating to Shakir are briefly these:—

In April last he levied blackmail at villages (*vide* No. 22); the further robberies alleged as reported in No. 24 were denied by the Government.

After that the Akhtamar Catholicos and the Vartabed at Hokotzvank Monastery made representations on his behalf. Shakir then submitted to the Vilayet authorities. He received reproof and advice, and was dismissed on the guarantee of one of his friends and promises of amendment.

Two months ago I was told that Shakir was continuing oppression and misconduct, and on asking precisely what, heard that he had committed the offences mentioned at the end of section 28 in the list of offences. Corrections that should be made here are:—

For "from Purbedalan forty sheep," read "from Armenian villagers of Purbedalan forty sheep and 8 'chaps' wheat."

For "from Makasik village eight trees," read "eighty trees cut down at Makoshk."

For "100 carpenters," read "100 'ustas,' presumably masons."

I cannot but say that these allegations appeared to be somewhat exaggerated, or that the source from which obtained was one which ought not to be regarded as devoid of partiality and animus. Still it would seem that accusations so numerous and various and circumstantial could hardly have been advanced on no foundation at all, even if I am unable to confirm them in any one particular. His Excellency the Vali yesterday stated that he had written to the Norduz authorities on the subject, but had not yet received a reply.

Tifur (*vide* section 28 in the same list) levied a blackmail of 12 "chaps" of wheat on the village inhabitants of Kooshk, near Van.

Tifur was summoned and questioned, the Vali also told me, and admitted having *borrowed* the amount in question. He said he had asked the Akhtamar Catholicos for a loan to support his family. This was refused, and he was told he might apply at Keoshk village which he did with this result. He was warned that any similar proceeding would bring him into serious trouble.

(Signed) GEORGE POLLARD DEVEY,
Van, December 31, 1890. *Her Britannic Majesty's Vice-Consul for Van.*

* See Memorandum attached.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

Memorandum respecting the Marx Affair.

Mustafa Bey,* son of Abdur-rizak, of Mazruk, brought three years ago from Tinis, village of Mukus, the Kurd Alo, to get his living as watchman, &c. Alo settled in Karagaus, Havatzor Nahiyyé, on Lake Van. Last summer his wife visited Tinis, and he went to fetch her.

A girl of Marx was married to an Armenian of Akugh of Vozim Nahiyyé,† who died after a while. The Moslem servant of a (or the) Kurd Agha, of Bider,‡ married the widow, and a year later was killed by his ex-master, who seized the woman.

Alo, being at Tinis at this juncture, got possession of the woman as representative of Marx village claims, and brought her down to Havatzor. The mother, living in Marx, reclaimed her daughter and took her home, where she remained three days.

Mustafa Bey came to Marx, and ordered that the woman, being Moslem, should be sent to Alo's house; the mother refused, and sent her secretly to the Akhtamar Catholicos about six or eight weeks ago, who sent her on to Van by ship. Mustafa Bey, hearing she was gone, beat and cursed the mother, who took refuge in Pano's house. At first this family, fearing to keep her, sent her to a village near, but she returned. This is why Alo burnt Panos' hay, &c.

Panos came to town to complain, and is said to have found the authorities disinclined to take any action. A few days later he returned home, and was next evening with Alo and others in a stable; the party breaking up at bed-time, Alo followed Panos home, and, a quarrel arising, Panos shot Alo, wounding him, not severely, with a revolver procured in the town.

Kurds assembled from neighbouring villages, and the Armenian Mudir of Ishkhané-Kom, a village near, came and took away Panos and reported to the Government. Zaptiehs arrested Panos next day; he was imprisoned on Thursday, and died on the night of Saturday, the 6th December, being, I can well imagine, already in a feeble state of health.

The relations of Panos in Van, at the inquest, pointed out there were black marks on the body, and asked for an inquiry as to cause of death. Thereupon, a second examination was made on the Wednesday, at which Drs. Nejib Bey and Nouri Effendi also joined the Belediyyé doctor, Aristidi.

They could not pronounce upon the disease or cause of death without an autopsy, but, for my part, I cannot think there are any grounds for suspecting any ill-treatment at the hands of gaolers or fellow-prisoners, or, in short, of foul play. The relations of Panos could have had an autopsy if they chose at their own cost and by their own doctors, only the Procureur-Général's Court would not give any such order, as the relations did not raise any allegation, whether of ill-treatment or foul play.

To my mind the case has been stirred purposely to bring into prominence the facts that an Armenian woman was seized by Kurds, and that Panos' hay was burnt without any satisfaction, and to attack Mustafa Bey.

The Mustantik told me privately, as elsewhere repeated, that there was no shadow of proof against Alo for the arson.

Notes.

1. Mustafa Bey has two or three brothers living at Mazruk, and lives mostly by plundering Armenians, according to their story. His sphere is in Havatzor and Kavash. I have never heard of him before the last few days, but make no doubt he is a thoroughly bad lot and petty oppressor.

2. Vozim is a district of ten or twelve Kurdish villages and one or two Armenian, nominally under Shattakh Caza, but is completely beyond the sphere of any administrative influence. It is south of the Shattakh River.

3. Bider is the Kaïmakam's seat of Berwer Caza, Bitlis Vilayet.

(Signed) GEORGE POLLARD DEVEY.

Van, December 23, 1890.

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* See Note 1. † See Note 2. ‡ See Note 3.

No. 39.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 3.)

(No. 119.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 28, 1891.

I HAVE the honour to report, with reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 61 of the 10th instant, that I caused inquiries to be made of the Grand Vizier as to whether any Mahommedans had been prosecuted for a share in the Erzeroum disturbances of the 30th June last.

His Highness stated, in reply, that the loss of life on that occasion had been chiefly on the side of the Turks, and that the investigation which had taken place had led to certain avowals and confessions on the part of the Armenian prisoners concerned of so serious a nature that the Government had thought it wiser not to press the charges against them, but had preferred, in accordance with the advice given at the time by Her Majesty's Embassy, to set them at liberty. All proceedings in the matter on both sides had accordingly been dropped.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 40.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 3.)

(No. 121. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 31, 1891.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 92 of the 14th instant, I have the honour to forward herewith a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Acting Consul at Erzeroum, inclosing a despatch from Mr. Vice-Consul Boyadjian, reporting upon the scheme for the formation of Kurdish cavalry.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 40.

Acting Consul Hampson to Sir W. White.

Sir, *Erzeroum, March* 21, 1891.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith a copy in duplicate of a despatch received from Acting Vice-Consul Boyadjian in reference to the Kurdish cavalry which is in course of formation. Mr. Boyadjian expresses similar views of this measure to those which I have already had the honour to submit to your Excellency.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES S. HAMPSON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 40.

Acting Vice-Consul Boyadjian to Acting Consul Hampson.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Diarbekir, February* 24, 1891.

YOU may be aware that, after the event at Erzeroum last year, a project to raise, in imitation of the Russian Cossacks, a Kurdish volunteer corps of Dragoons, was on foot. I have the honour to inform you now that instructions to that effect have lately been received in this vilayet from Constantinople, and steps are being taken by the Local Government to organize the said corps.

I am not in a position to state the details of these instructions, as they have not yet been published, but from certain reliable sources I learn that these dragoon corps will be provided with rifles by the Government; that those Kurdish Chiefs who undertake to raise as many men as to form a regiment or battalion will, respectively, have the rank and the title of Colonel or Major, and that the officers thus named will have to go to the capital to receive their final, and, perhaps, verbal, instructions.

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I have also to state that, as far as I am aware, the proposal has been, for reasons mentioned below, declined by the Kurdish Chiefs, with one exception. It is stated by them that they suspect that the Government, under this pretext, would take them to Constantinople and keep them there as hostages. But it would not be difficult for the Government to dispel from their minds this unfounded suspicion and bring them to a different state of mind. The only one who accepted the proposition, and promised to form a regiment, is said to be Mustafa Agha, the powerful Head of the Miran nomad Kurds. The antecedents of this man do not inspire in the public mind much hope of an honourable career. He has been accused of incendiarism, murder, rapine, and all sorts of crimes; and it was only a few months since that he carried off several hundred head of sheep belonging to a merchant of Orfah, and, on being complained against, refused to obey the summons of the Mardin Governor, and the threats of the Governor-General were of no avail, and I am told that he is negotiating now with the Local Government for free pardon, as a reward for undertaking to form a regiment of dragoons.

I cannot pretend to be acquainted with the intentions of the Government in regard to the formation, employment, and discipline of the corps in question, but the public in general and Christians in particular look upon the realization of the project with great misgiving.

They state, and with reason, that as these hordes have always been the terror and scourge of the peaceable inhabitants both Moslem and Christian, no one knows what they may do when incorporated into the army and provided with arms. And it may also be added that, unless they are put under strictest discipline, it is to be feared that in the end they may cause serious anxieties even to the Government itself.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS BOYADJIAN.

No. 41.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 3.)

(No. 125.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 30, 1891.

I HAVE the honour to report that a detachment of Kurdish auxiliary cavalry arrived here yesterday evening by special steamer from Trebizond, and have been accommodated at Tchiragli Yali Beshiktash. Consul Longworth, in reporting their departure from Trebizond, states that they have been invited by the Porte for military purposes.

This appears to be the detachment of that newly-formed Kurdish cavalry militia which is to do duty at the Palace of Yildiz and at Constantinople, as mentioned in my despatch to your Lordship No. 66 of the 24th February, 1891, and is clearly an imitation of the duty done by the Caucasian Irregular Cavalry under the name of Circassians or Mountaineers at St. Petersburgh, and at one time at the Viceregal Court at Warsaw.

I have the honour to transmit herewith, with reference to this subject, a translation of a further extract from to-day's "Tarik" on the arrival of the Kurdish regiment and Chiefs at this capital.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 41.

Extract from the "Tarik" of March 30, 1891.

(Translation.)

THE officers and privates of the new regiment formed from the nomad tribes arrived yesterday (Sunday) in the Austrian boat "Diana" from Trebizond.

His Imperial Majesty the Sultan received them from the kiosk, in the vicinity of the Palace, and sent Dervish Pasha to convey to them his greeting. He ordered them to be quartered in the "new barracks" and their smallest wants to be attended to.

No. 42.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 17.)

(No. 145. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, April* 10, 1891.

FROM the accompanying copy of a Confidential Report addressed to me on the 21st ultimo by Mr. Acting Consul Hampson, your Lordship will be quite as sorry, I dare say, as I have been, to notice the apprehensions existing in certain quarters as to the existing danger of some desperate outbreak amongst the Armenians.

Similar alarming notes have reached me from other quarters, and I have been at some pains, but in vain, to try and find out whether there is any accuracy in these fears, which might, if realized, cause great calamities to the people concerned without any apparent chance of ameliorating their condition.

I have not ceased, however, to represent constantly to the Grand Vizier the necessity not to neglect any opportunity to redress the legitimate grievances of the population of these districts, and His Highness appears fully alive to this, but finds immense difficulty in the selection of proper persons to carry out his views.

I have the honour to inclose copies of two further despatches I have received from Mr. Hampson, of which the former relates to the measures taken by the Persian Government to prevent Armenians entering Turkey, and the latter reporting a marked increase of the feeling of uneasiness throughout the town of Erzeroum.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 42.

Acting Consul Hampson to Sir W. White.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Erzeroum, March* 21, 1891.

A FEW days ago I had a conversation with an Armenian who occupies an official position here, and whose employment necessitates his travelling about the country, where he is brought into close contact with the peasants. His remarks upon the present position of Armenian affairs, and on the views and feelings of the Christian peasant, may not be without interest to your Excellency at this moment. I do not attach very much importance to these statements, but they were undoubtedly made in all sincerity by my informant, who had gathered their substance from the peasants with whom he had been brought in contact. He himself evidently believed in the intentions which had been declared to him, while, at the same time, deploring and deprecating them.

Referring to the existing feeling of uneasiness, my informant stated that he should be very much surprised if there were not terrible disturbances in the spring. He said that the patience and endurance of the peasants were exhausted, and that, hopeless of any reforms being carried out by the Turks, they were determined to attract the attention of civilized nations by desperate means. On my asking what they hoped for, what they expected as result, he said that all they knew was that their position was unbearable; that they realized the fact that any attempt of rising on their part could only mean the massacre of 20,000 or 30,000 of their number; but that nothing could be more hopeless than their present state, that they were determined to suffer anything in order to obtain some change, and that, as the worst that could result, they hoped that Russia would be forced to interfere and occupy the country. I said that I understood that in general the Armenians had no wish to find themselves under Russian rule. He agreed, but said that even that was better than their present condition; in that case, at least their lives, their wives, and the product of their labour would be secured to them. He said they entertained but little hopes of success, but that they were better armed than was usually supposed; that they bought arms from the Kurds. Besides, they firmly believe in the existence of a large force of Armenians on the Persian frontier. This force is being constantly augmented by recruits enlisted at Kars and elsewhere, and is stated by some to amount to 40,000 or 50,000.

The existence of such a force has been for some months past the subject of most

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persistent rumours, which I have already mentioned to your Excellency. I cannot obtain, however, the slightest reliable confirmation of any foundation for this story.

I must repeat that I only mention these statements to your Excellency for what they are worth, and as showing the views entertained by many Armenians of what may happen in the spring.

Personally, though I am disposed to believe in the probability of considerable disturbances, I am very sceptical of anything like an organized rising taking place.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES S. HAMPSON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 42.

Acting Consul Hampson to Sir W. White.

Erzeroum, March 28, 1891.

Sir,

WITH reference to that portion of my Confidential despatch of the 21st instant which refers to the rumoured presence of a large body of Armenians on the Persian side of the Turkish frontier, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that the Persian Government has sent a Circular despatch to its Consular officers in these parts, informing them that instructions have been issued to its officials on the frontier to prevent all Armenians, whether from Persia or from Russia, from entering Turkey unless their papers are strictly in order.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES S. HAMPSON.

Inclosure 3 in No. 42.

Acting Consul Hampson to Sir W. White.

Erzeroum, April 4, 1891.

Sir,

IT is with regret that I have to report to your Excellency that, during last week, there has been a marked increase of the feeling of uneasiness throughout the town. The persistence of the rumours of the occurrence of some untoward event at Bayazid is, in a great measure, the reason of this feeling; and yet it is absolutely impossible to obtain any information as to whether any such event has really taken place, and, if so, of what nature. The most prevalent story, and that which seems most supported, is that a conflict took place between Armenians from across the Persian frontier and the Turkish troops. The departure of the Vali for Bayazid shortly after the commencement of these rumours, and the news of the approaching arrival of the Commander-in-chief of the 4th Army Corps from Erzingian, have tended to increase the alarm.

Meanwhile, the accounts I receive from Alashgird are far from satisfactory. Christians are imprisoned, forced to pay sums of money, beaten, and absolutely prevented from moving from one village to another. In fact, all communication is entirely intercepted in that district, which accounts for the impossibility of obtaining information here. Nearly all these accusations are laid to the account of Ahmed Bey, the dismissed Kaïmakam, who is making the most of his last weeks in power. It is useless, therefore, to go into details.

From here the exodus of Armenian merchants and all who are in a position to escape is already commencing. All seem to be agreed that great troubles are ahead, and that this, if ever, is the moment to insist on reforms being carried out, and that the most pressing of those reforms are the lightening of taxation on the peasants, the removal of the system of suspicions and espionage, and protection against the Kurds.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES S. HAMPSON.

No. 43.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 17.)

(No. 148.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April* 13, 1891.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 125 of the 30th ultimo, reporting on the recent formation of Kurdish cavalry, I have the honour to forward herewith a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Acting Consul at Erzeroum, inclosing a despatch from Mr. Vice-Consul Boyadjian, containing further information as to the organization of this corps, and as to the apprehension with which the measure is regarded.

I inclose also a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Trebizond, reporting the circumstances of the departure of the Kurds from Trebizond on their way to Constantinople.

Two extracts from the local press, quoting the official account which has appeared in the "Takvimi-Vakaï," are also inclosed herewith.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 43.

Acting Consul Hampson to Sir W. White.

Sir, *Erzeroum, April* 4, 1891.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Excellency copy, in duplicate, of a further despatch which I have received from Acting Vice-Consul Boyadjian regarding the Kurdish cavalry.

Most of the Kurds left Trebizond last week for Constantinople.

Hussein Agha, of Pahoss, concerning whose crimes I have at various times written to your Excellency, follows them shortly.

I can only repeat to your Excellency that this measure of organizing the Kurds is regarded by all Christians and foreigners, and by many Turks, with the greatest dread and anxiety.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES S. HAMPSON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 43.

Acting Vice-Consul Boyadjian to Acting Consul Hampson.

Sir, *Diarbekir, March* 17, 1891.

IN my Confidential despatch I have had the honour of informing you that auxiliary cavalry regiments from contingents, furnished by Kurdish tribes, are in the process of formation. I have now the honour to state that Mustapha Agha, the Chief of Miran Kurds, has promised to raise a battalion composed of 300 men, and left a fortnight ago for Erzingian, the head-quarter of the 4th Army Corps, from whence he has to proceed to Constantinople, and that another Mustapha Agha, of Severek, and Ibrahim Agha Tamavi, the Chief of the Milli tribe, will soon follow, each one undertaking to furnish a full battalion.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS BOYADJIAN.

Inclosure 3 in No. 43.

Consul Longworth to Sir W. White.

Sir, *Trebizond, March* 28, 1891.

I BEG to confirm my telegram in cypher of yesterday's date, reporting that some Kurdish Chiefs, invited by the Porte for military purposes, had left for Constantinople on board a special steamer of the Austrian Lloyd Company.

These Kurds, numbering in all thirteen Chieftains and a Sheikh with a retinue of about 140 men, hail from the provinces of Erzeroum, Van, Mosul, Bitlis, and Diarbekir. The language and costumes of some of them show them to be of semi-Arabic origin, coming probably from the northern districts of Mesopotamia.

The party appear to have been fêted and lodged by the authorities along their

whole route, while on entering Trebizond they were received with all civil and military honours, and conveyed in great state to the fort, whence they were billeted in hatches on the more prominent members of the Mussulman community.

Leaving their arms, horses, and a dozen servants behind, they embarked on the following evening for Constantinople on board the steam-ship "Diana," accompanied by Colonel Velibi Bey, of the Imperial Palace, as well as by Lieutenant-Colonel Ismail Bey, of the War Office, and not, as stated, by Colonel Osman Bey, son of the notorious Kurd, Beder Khan Pasha, whose frightful exploits against the Nestorians are fully described by Sir Henry Layard in his work on "Nineveh and its Remains."

Invited as temporary (perhaps permanent) guests of the Central Government, these Beys are proceeding to the capital under the impression only that they are to be presented to the Sultan and consulted by the Porte on the formation in Anatolia of a Kurdish cavalry contingent, to number, it is said, some 30,000 sabres out of 100,000 available.

The new auxiliary force of the Ottoman army, we are, moreover, told, is to find its own equipment and depend on the State for arms and ammunition only, a large number and quantity of which the Kurds must have already appropriated for themselves during the late Russo-Turkish war.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. Z. LONGWORTH.

Inclosure 4 in No. 43.

Extract from the "Levant Herald" of April 3, 1891.

THE KURDISH CAVALRY.—The "Takvimi-Vakai," speaking of the formation of the Kurdish regiments of cavalry, lays stress on the good effects which this measure is calculated to secure. First of all, the nomad tribes will be thus brought within the pale of civilization, their hordes will be disciplined, and their proverbial bravery turned to good account for the benefit of the State. The initiative of this happy idea, and the great success which will certainly crown its execution, are due to the wisdom and foresight of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan.

The Kurdish Chiefs who are now here with some of their clansmen belonging to the 1st Ertoghrul Regiment, are from the tribes of Bayazid, Aintab, Alashgird, and Hans, in the Vilayet of Erzeroum, and the tribes of Malashgird and Boulank, in the Vilayet of Bitlis. The number of regiments to be formed is twenty-four.

A Commission was lately instituted at Yildiz, under the presidency of Marshal Shakir Pasha, Aide-de-camp General of the Sultan, for the purpose of drawing up a set of Regulations for the new Ertoghrul cavalry regiments. The Commission has completed its labours, and the Regulations having been submitted to the Sultan's sanction, His Imperial Majesty has approved them.

Inclosure 5 in No. 43.

Extract from "La Turquie" of April 3, 1891.

LA CAVALERIE KURDE.—D'après le "Takvimi-Vakai" les diverses tribus des Kurdes de la circonscription du 4e Corps d'Armée fourniront en tout vingt-quatre régiments qui seront désignés sous le nom générique de "Régiments Erthogroul," mais qui seront spécifiés par le nom des tribus.

Voici les noms des tribus et le nombre de régiments que chacune d'elles fournira :—

Tribus—	Régiments.
Sepki	4
Hasananli	6
Djebranli	3
Cara-Papaklow	3
Dilmanlanli	1
Djélali	2
Zilanli	2
Ademanli	2
Meridan	1
Régiments	24

No. 44.

The Archbishop of Canterbury to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April 22.*)

My Lord, *Lambeth Palace, April 21, 1891.*

I HAVE the honour to forward, for your Lordship's perusal, a letter from Mrs. Bishop, a bold and sagacious traveller (formerly Miss Bird, whose travels in Japan are well known), upon the condition of the Christians in Turkish Kurdistan, which she has recently visited.

Mrs. Bishop was anxious that this statement should be placed in your Lordship's hands. She has appended to it (although in strict confidence) a list of the principal informants who have confirmed and supplemented her personal observations.

Your Lordship will perceive how rapidly the case of the Christians within the Turkish rule is becoming worse since the partial withdrawal of the genuine Turkish troops, instead of that increase of Turkish garrisons which has been so strongly recommended by Her Majesty's Consul-General.

The Ottoman authorities at Constantinople held interviews with Mrs. Bishop, as your Lordship will see; and it is most earnestly hoped that Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte may have instructions from your Lordship to press effectively for the strengthening of the proper Turkish military force in Kurdistan as the only means of preventing the increasing oppression and misery of the Christians.

Your Lordship will be glad to notice that, in Persia (where Her Majesty's Ambassador has pressed the subject), the Nestorians have now little or nothing to complain of.

Mr. Browne, who has been resident at Kochanes for five years (whom Mrs. Bishop mentions), will be in England very shortly, and could be examined.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDW. CANTUAR.

Inclosure in No. 44.

Mrs. Bishop to the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Garthlands, Priory Road, Bournemouth, April 17, 1891.

My Lord Archbishop,

ARRIVING at Urumiya in Persia late in September 1890, and much desiring to visit Kochanes, a station of the "Archbishop of Canterbury's Assyrian Mission," I proposed to return home through Asia Minor.

At Urumiya there were rumours that on the other side of the frontier the country was in a disturbed state, and that the Kurds were making the by-route by which I proposed to travel insecure for travellers. It was, however, impossible to authenticate these reports, and I left Urumiya for Van on the 14th October.

I ask you, my Lord Archbishop, to believe that I was then in complete ignorance of the condition of the Christian populations of Kurdistan, or of any special complications arising out of the Erzeroum troubles, that I belong to no political party, was not the "correspondent" of any newspaper or magazine, and, far from having any special interest in the Armenians, have rather a strong prejudice against them.

So far as I can judge of myself, I believe that I was an absolutely neutral and impartial observer.

The day I crossed the frontier I halted at the Christian village of Marbishu, from which some weeks before 1,460 sheep had been driven off. Thirty fat sheep were taken the morning of my arrival, and I was a witness of a Kurdish raid upon the cattle of the same place. The whole road from the frontier to the plain of Gawar was dangerous for travellers, and I was obliged to have escorts of from four to eight armed men.

The large and fertile plain of Gawar has one town, Diza, a Customs station and military post, and the residence of a Kaïmakam. I was informed by the English Mission priests at Urmi, and by many Headmen and others in Gawar, that last summer the garrison of Diza was reduced from 200 men to 60, and that since this reduction the outrages, among which I suddenly and unexpectedly found myself, had considerably increased.

On the Gawar plain are twenty Syrian and Armenian villages, and the Kurds live in villages and forts on the slopes above it. This plain has been ravaged by the

Kurds during the last few months. Most articles of value have been extorted from the Christians by "demand," *i.e.*, by means of threats of death.

I was told by the Malek Ishu, the representative of the Gawar Christians in transactions with the Government, that 15,000 sheep were driven off from Gawar chiefly by the Harikis, a nomad tribe of Kurds, between the 1st June and the 18th October, 1890, the date of my visit. Several Christians, the Reis [?] of Pirzala, and the brother of the Malek of Pirzala, not recently among others, had been shot, and certain young girls had been carried off. Two girls of Valiwawa were hidden in a hole, known only to their father, who carried bread and water to them on alternate nights, and came to me secretly to ask me to take them into the mountains, and place them under the protection of the Nestorian Patriarch.

On the night of the 18th October, 150 sheep were taken by the Kurds from the sheep-fold of the house at Pirzala in which I was staying. It was a light night, and I saw that the Kurds were armed with modern weapons.

The house of the Nestorian priest at Gahgoran, in Gawar, was attacked by the Kurds on the 20th October, the night I lodged there, in order to drive off fourteen horses which were in it. On the same night, in the same place, another house was dug into by the Kurds, and a valuable horse belonging to the Nestorian Patriarch was taken. It was a light, clear night, and in addition to the zaptiehs, handsomely paid by the villagers to guard their threshing floors, my own zaptieh escort was close at hand.

Gawar is suffering most terribly. Its great oppressors are the Kurdish Chiefs, Abdurrahman, Shalim, and Tameragha Bey.

At Kochanes, the mountain residence of Mar Shimun, the Nestorian Patriarch, I found sixty guests, each with his tale of recent outrage and robbery. While I was there the Christian village of Eyal, which I passed through a few days earlier, was robbed of the greater number of its sheep, with the loss of a shepherd's life.

Mar Ishu, Bishop of Berwar, was a fugitive at Kochanes, having fled for his life from his diocese, which had been harried by the Kurdish Chief, Mohammed Bey, till there was little left to take (according to his statement), nearly all the sheep and goats having been driven off by the Kurds, who had plundered all the houses and had burned two.

Mar Ishu sent a Petition to Government regarding the oppressions of the Kurds, and then Mohammed Bey, by violence and threats of death, possessed himself of the Bishop's seal, and wrote in his name and under his seal to Stamboul, contradicting the statements of the Petition.

Mar Ishu most solemnly assured me that the above statement is fact, and added: "My seal has been for nine months in the possession of Mohammed Bey, who has killed about thirty men in Gawar."

In Kochanes and its neighbourhood great alarm prevailed. "Fear was on every side," and people dared not go to Urumiya even by the caravan route, or from one village to another except in large companies.

I specify the plain of Gawar with its twenty Christian villages, the valleys of Upper and Lower Berwar, the districts of Sopana and Amadid, as being daily and nightly exposed without protection to be pillaged by the Kurds, who of late have been very unscrupulous concerning human life.

Proceeding from Kochanes to Van, I found Kotcones and Khanjarak all but stripped bare, and in the latter place twenty-three sheep, nearly all that remained, were driven off by a party of well-armed Kurds the night I was there.

The great oppressors of the Berwar valleys are Hazela Beg, Tameragha Beg, Mohammed Beg, and certain men of Julomerk.

Between Kochanes and Van, the road viâ Merwonen is insecure for travelling and goods. My caravan was attacked by Kurds, armed with Martini rifles, as a great many of them are, but they were repulsed, as on another occasion, by my Zaptieh escort. So far, they are unwilling to come into direct collision with men in Turkish uniform.

I specify also the Moosh plain, in the Vilayet of Bitlis, as having been bared of nearly everything by the Kurds last summer and autumn. The Christian villages of that plain have been subjected to great atrocities in addition to robberies. Women and girls have been outraged under circumstances of peculiar brutality, and girls have been carried to the mountains.

Various narratives of outrages of recent occurrence on the Moosh plain were given to me by the pastor of the Armenian Protestant Congregation at Bitlis, and a Protestant pastor from Erzeroum.

The truthfulness and high character of these men were vouched for by Mr. G. Knapp, M.A., of Amherst College, Mass., who interpreted for them. They asked me to lay one narrative of wrong* in which Turkish officials are seriously implicated, with their names, before the late Mr. Clifford Lloyd.

On the long march from Bitlis to Erzeroum I generally halted in Christian villages, and each night heard of outrages upon them from their Headmen and priests.

Four of the villages were attacked during the nights I spent at them, and many sheep and cattle were driven off, shots being fired, a shepherd near Yongaloo being killed.

In that special quarter outrages were of nightly occurrence, though 400 Turkish soldiers were quartered in the districts at the village of Shaoub, ostensibly to protect the people.

There was not a Christian village between Bitlis and Erzeroum which was not suffering severely in last November and December, the time of my visit.

Hassan Mo, an ally of the notorious Moussa Bey, and Orzogh Bey are among the worst oppressors of the Moosh plain and its neighbourhood.

Things have been much worse, the people told me, since the "Erzeroum troubles" in June last. Their impression is, that they are left to be "wiped off" by the Kurds, without the scandal of a massacre.

The Christians of the villages in the vilayets I have named have been reduced to extreme poverty, and their state of terror is truly pitiable. My impression of the Armenian peasant is, that he is absolutely innocent of political aims and aspirations, and that his one desire is that the taxes he pays should insure the security of his person and property.

I inquired in every place what were the grievances of which they complain, and the answer amounted substantially to this:—

"The Kurds take by 'demand' or violence our wheat, money, jewels, bedding, sheep, cattle, and clothes, both by day and night. They ill-use our women, and are even taking our girls, and they shoot us if we resist. They sometimes beat us to death. The lower officials are in league with the Kurds, and receive money from them; this we complain of most. We pay heavy taxes, but we would not complain of this if we were protected from the Kurds. Things are growing worse and worse. They are hardly leaving us our lives."

Other grievances are that when they make complaint of outrages by the Kurds they have no redress, but are treated practically as though they have no legal rights, and a complaint, now rarely made, is nearly always followed by the burning of the house or crops of the complainant.

Protection from the Kurds, so far as I could learn, is the one claim made by both the Syrian and Armenian peasantry.

While I was in Erzeroum last December certain Kurdish Beys, seven, I think, received at Erzingan through Zeki Pasha, Commander of the 4th Army Corps, commissions as officers of Kurdish irregulars, or Bashi-Bazouks. Mr. Richardson, an American missionary at Erzeroum, in whose house I received hospitality, was in Erzingan at the time, and stated to me that on the 19th November these Beys, after receiving their commissions, rode through the Christian quarter making gestures as of cutting throats, saying to the Armenian merchants, "Your time has come now; hitherto we have not had the co-operation of the Government, but we have it now."

I was a witness of many wrongs inflicted on the Christians last December in the Vilayet of Erzeroum, and would specify the district of Alishgird as pre-eminent for the extent to which the Christians are harried. M. Vogereau, the French Consul, after stating many atrocious wrongs which he had officially investigated, and which, he added, were of daily occurrence, exclaimed, "It's no longer a question of politics, but one of humanity."

If risking my own life in the endeavour to ascertain truth, after my interest was aroused in these people, and if enduring hardships in the merciless winter of Asia Minor, from which many men would shrink, gives me any right to speak, I would record my impressions thus:—

That throughout much of Eastern Asia Minor the roads are unsafe for travellers and caravans without a military escort.

2. That the lives and property of Christians are in daily jeopardy.

3. That anarchy prevails, and that law is in abeyance, so far as Christians are concerned.

* A version of this story, but not theirs, appeared on p. 74 of the latest White Book on Turkey.

4. That many of the officials connive at the excesses of the Kurds.

5. That the love of plunder is now combined with a renwakened religious fanaticism.

6. That in addition to the outrages inflicted by the Kurds, the Christians are maltreated both by soldiers and zaptiehs, and that cruelty and gross extortion are practised in the collection of the taxes.

7. That the Porte has it in her power to terminate this state of things by establishing a series of strong military posts, well supplied with cavalry, under reliable officers, in the disturbed districts.

Persia, though a feeble Power, taught the Kurds so severe a lesson ten years ago, that the 30,000 Christians on her side of the frontier have nothing to complain of from them, and I travelled for 300 miles through Persian Kurdistan last autumn without hearing of any disorders.

I regret the length to which this letter has extended, but an unbiassed statement, however scanty, may not be altogether useless.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ISABELLA L. BISHOP.

P.S.—With your Grace's permission I will add that in many cases, both among Syrians and Armenians, the persons who tell one a story, with any circumstantial details, say at the same time that they will "go back from it" if any official investigation is made, "for fear of our lives."

This adds to the great difficulties which beset our Consuls in their earnest endeavours to arrive at truth.

I also intended to add that no person told me such painful facts regarding Turkish officials in connection with the oppression of the Christians as M. Vogeeau, the French Consul at Erzeroum, whose investigations are made with great care and intimate knowledge both of Turkish and Armenian character. No one also used such strong language regarding the complicity of officials with the excesses of the Kurdish Beys.

It is a misfortune that exaggerations and invented sensational stories should be circulated at home, specially by the correspondent of the "Daily News."

We have to bear in mind the religious difficulty which lies in the way of the Sultan's Government giving protection, as it is bound to do, to its Christian subjects, owing to the aroused fanaticism of the Kurds, some of whose Sheikhs have raised the potent cry, "Islam in danger," and the kindred fanaticism of the Sheikhs and Mollahs by whom the Sultan is surrounded in his immediate *entourage*.

Sir W. White was anxious that I should lay my experiences and impressions before the Grand Vizier, and arranged an interview for that purpose, at which Sir Alfred Sandison was present.

The Sultan's Private Secretary afterwards called twice upon me, and asked a great many questions, and Sir W. White told me that there was no doubt that the statements I have now made to your Grace were laid before the Sultan.

There is no doubt that the state of things in Kurdistan is very serious, and calls for immediate and decisive measures.

I. L. B.

(Strictly Confidential.)

My informants were for the plain of Gawar and the Upper and Lower Berwar valleys—

The Mission priests of the Archbishop of Canterbury's Assyrian Mission, specially the Rev. W. Browne, for five years resident at Kochanes.

Pasha Oshana, a learned Syrian scholar, translator to the American Presbyterian Mission in Urmi.

Kwaja Shimon, brother of the Head of the French Lazarist Mission in Urmi, and formerly French tutor to the Naïb-es-Sultan, son of the Shah of Persia.

The priest of Morbichu.

Mar Tshu, Bishop of Berwar.

The Malek Tshu.

The Malek David, of Pirzala.

The Malek Suloiman.

Ishai, brother of the Nestorian Patriarch.

Mar Auraham, Patriarch Designate.

In the Armenian districts:—

The Headman of Khonjarch.

Dr. Reynolds, an American medical missionary at Van.

The Rev. George Knapp, M.A., for twenty-five years an American missionary at Bitlis.

The pastor of the Reformed Armenian Church at Bitlis.

Thomas Lenny (commander of the revenue steamer on Lake Van), in the employment of the tobacco monopoly (Régie).

The Reformed and Gregorian priests of Yengalon.

The Headmen of Ghazloo, Giedzag, Pichrose; part of Herta, Ghazit, Yengaloo, &c.

The Rev. W. Richardson, American missionary at Erzeroum.

M. Vogereau, French Consul at Erzeroum.

Mr. Hampson, Acting Consul at Erzeroum for England during the absence of Mr. Clifford Lloyd.

The Directors of the Sassanfarian College at Erzeroum.

Stefano, a large owner of mules well known to Vice-Consul Deany.

The Turkish Mudir of Herta.

No. 45.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir W. White.

(No. 94.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, April 25, 1891.*

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency herewith a copy of a letter from the Archbishop of Canterbury,* forwarding a communication addressed to his Grace by Mrs. Bishop, relative to the condition of the Christian population in Turkish Kurdistan, which she has recently visited.

It is stated that the strength of the Turkish garrisons in the districts referred to has been reduced, since which the number of outrages on Christians has greatly increased.

It appears that Mrs. Bishop, by your Excellency's advice and intervention, had an interview with the Grand Vizier, when she was enabled to lay before his Highness the information she had gained as to the present state of affairs in Kurdistan, and that the Sultan's Private Secretary also called upon her with reference to the same subject.

I shall be glad to learn from your Excellency whether any steps are being taken by the Porte in view of the state of affairs described by Mrs. Bishop.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 46.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 1.)

(No. 166.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April 25, 1891.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 94 of the 14th ultimo, I have the honour to report that I instructed Sir A Sandison to make a representation to the Grand Vizier respecting the alleged outrage by zaptiehs on an Armenian near Bitlis. His Highness has now assured Sir A. Sandison that the culprits were actually under trial, and that he had instructed the Governor to communicate the sentence passed on the accused, and to explain the reason of the delays which have occurred in the matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 47.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 1.)

(No. 169.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April 27, 1891.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Acting Consul at Erzeroum, reporting a confidential conversation with the Armenian Archbishop.

* No. 44.

His Beatitude, as your Lordship will observe, complains of the system of espionage maintained by the Turks in his diocese, and accuses certain persons from Russia of fomenting the prevalent feeling of uneasiness. He adds that there is no desire in the country either for autonomy or for a Russian occupation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 47.

Acting Consul Hampson to Sir W. White.

(Confidential.)
Erzeroum, April 18, 1891.

Sir,

A FEW days ago I had a long and confidential conversation with the Armenian Gregorian Archbishop.

He complained bitterly of the system of suspicion and espionage which was maintained towards all Armenians by the Turkish authorities. Even his own messengers are stopped, and papers on purely ecclesiastical matters, and bearing his signature, seized and sent to the Government. It was this system of espionage, amounting almost to a state of siege, which was the cause of the prevalent feeling of uneasiness.

He added that this feeling was fostered by the machinations of certain persons from Russia. Though he had no proof such as could enable him to put his hand on these emissaries, he was positively certain of the fact.

The Archbishop said, as all say, that the chief things necessary to establish tranquillity were the cessation of this policy of suspicion; protection against the Kurds, especially now after the formation of the Kurdish cavalry, and the appointment of strong and just men as local officials, Kaïmakams, and Mutessarifs; by the removal of such men as Ahmed, the dismissed Kaïmakam of Alashgerd. He expressed his belief in the energy and integrity of the Vali.

The Archbishop also said that he did not believe that any Armenian capable of thinking, and who had any stake in the country, entertained for a moment the idea of autonomy; what agitators who lived in safety at a distance might do, was another question. As to any wish for a Russian occupation, to use his own words, "The Crescent of Turkey was far better than the Cross of Russia."

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHAS. S. HAMPSON.

No. 48.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 1.)

(No. 170.)
Constantinople, April 27, 1891.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Acting Consul at Erzeroum reporting that fresh arrests of Armenians were taking place, in spite of the fact that a telegram had lately been received by the Armenian Gregorian Bishop at Erzeroum from the Patriarch in Constantinople informing him that a general pardon had been granted by the Sultan to all Armenians in prison.

On the 14th ultimo I inquired from Her Majesty's Consuls at Erzeroum, Aleppo, and Trebizond, and from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van, how many Armenian political prisoners were still in custody in their districts.

I have now the honour to inclose the replies from the four above-named Consular officers, forwarding complete lists of political prisoners, as required.

I have caused the inclosed lists to be shown to the Grand Vizier.

A Memorandum from Sir A. Sandison is herewith inclosed, with a list of prisoners in Van, Bitlis, and Erzeroum, which was supplied to him by the Grand Vizier. In this list political and ordinary prisoners in the Vilayets of Van and Bitlis are not distinguished.

I have, at the Grand Vizier's request, furnished his Highness with an abstract embodying the details of the various lists which are inclosed in this despatch.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 48.

Acting Consul Hampson to Sir W. White.

Sir,
Erzeroum, February 21, 1891.

I READ in the "Times" of the 19th January that His Majesty the Sultan had been pleased to order the release of all Armenians in prison at Constantinople for political offences, and that, at the same time, orders had been sent to the provinces for the release of all Armenians who had been arrested on similar charges.

As I had the honour to inform your Excellency, by telegram, on the 19th January last, and in my despatch of the 23rd January, 1891, a telegram to the above effect was received from the Patriarch by the Armenian Bishop here, but the Vali denied all knowledge of any such order. His Excellency, however, promised to telegraph for further information on the subject, and the Bishop, afraid of giving offence, consequently took no further steps in the matter. Nothing more has been heard on the subject, and there the matter rests.

Meanwhile, far from the Armenians being released, fresh victims are constantly being thrown into prison on the most trivial charges. A week ago a young Armenian Protestant was proceeding to Erzingian on business connected with the American Mission. Although his papers were in perfect order, he was arrested at Mama-Khatun, half-way between this and Erzingian, and brought back here, where he is at present kept in confinement. Absolutely no charge has been made against him.

Two Armenians (Russian subjects, it is said) are in prison on equally absurd charges. The Turkish authorities wish to send them to Russia, but will not agree to the demand of the Russian Consulate General that they should first be examined there as to their right to Russian nationality.

Having been confined to my bed during the last fortnight by an attack of small-pox, I have been unable to inquire personally into these cases.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES S. HAMPSON.

P.S.—Since writing the above I learn that the Armenian who was arrested at Mama-Khatun has been released.

C. S. H.

Inclosure 2 in No. 48.

Acting Consul Hampson to Sir W. White.

Sir,
Erzeroum, March 21, 1891.

AS directed by your Excellency in your telegram of the 14th instant, I have the honour to forward herewith lists of the Armenians still in custody in this Consular district charged with offences nominally of a political character. It is very difficult to obtain exact information of prisoners who are in confinement at Erzingian and in Alashgerd, but I have done everything in my power to make these lists full and reliable.

Your Excellency will observe from the inclosed lists that there are eighteen Armenians still in prison in Erzeroum, admittedly on political charges, of whom only five have received any sentence.

In by far the majority of cases, absolutely no investigation has taken place since the arrest of the prisoners.

Of the prisoners arrested in connection with the events of the 20th June, 1890, none remain in prison. On the other hand, no single Mussulman was ever arrested on account of that disturbance.

At Bayazid there are three or four political prisoners.

At Erzingian seven Armenians are in prison on political charges.

At Kara-Kelissa and Toprak-Kala, Alashgerd, there are at present thirty-two Armenian prisoners accused vaguely of seditious practices.

This makes a total of sixty or sixty-one political prisoners in the Erzeroum district.

From Vice-Consul Devey I learn that in Van some ten or fifteen Armenians have recently been released, leaving only ten or eleven still in custody.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES S. HAMPSON.

P.S.—I may add that Hazaros Maloian, an Armenian Protestant clergyman, who was employed, under the American Mission, in Alashgerd, was summoned here a year ago. Though never imprisoned, and no charge made against him, he is not allowed to leave Erzeroum, but is kept here, on bail, unable to return to his work.

C. S. H.

Inclosure 3 in No. 48.

List of Armenians in Prison on Political Charges in the Erzeroum District on March 21, 1891.

I.—ERZEROUM.

1. SEVEN from Alashgerd (Avadis, son of Bedros; Bagdasar, son of Artin; Abraham, son of priest Ohannis; Artin, son of Vartan; Sirop, son of Avadis; Ohannis, son of Miktar; Muggerditch Han Emirian); were imprisoned three months ago, first in Alashgerd, then here, on the information of Bogos, of Toprak Kala, who accused them of seditious practices.

Muggerditch has been examined once or twice; in the case of the others no legal proceedings have taken place.

2. Two from Chimish-Gezek, in Dersim district (Bedros, son of Adam; Toros Oja-Bashi Oghlu); have been in prison here for three years. Bedros is condemned to ten years' imprisonment, Toros to five. Charge against them: having in their possession seditious books and national songs.

3. Hachik, son of Aslan, of Van, arrested at same time as Bedros and Toros (No. 2) and on the same charge, is sentenced to banishment for life, and has been in prison three years.

4. Three from Horas, in the district of Kerri (Hachadur Tiwanian; Nigoros, son of Krikor; Hugas, son of Merkon); were imprisoned at Kerri, and brought here two months ago. Charge against them is collecting money in aid of sedition. They declare this money to have been collected for the purpose of founding a school.

No investigation has taken place.

5. Sirkis, son of Muktar, and Agajan, son of Siro, from Moosh, have been in prison for two years and ten months. Their sentence is three years, for having in their possession copies of national songs.

6. Eranos, son of Gazoros, of Moosh, was arrested a month ago near the Russian frontier. No charge has been made against him, and no investigation has taken place.

7. Hachdur, of Gagisman (Russia), a Russian subject, was arrested two months ago near the frontier. No charge was made against him, and no investigation has taken place.

The matter has been reported to Russian Embassy.

8. Mulnan Aliksan, an Armenian Catholic, was imprisoned about the beginning of December. The only charge against him is that, while coming from Kars, he wrote down the names of the villages at which he stopped.

There are also a considerable number of Armenians in prison here on criminal charges.

Among these are nine out of seventeen who were arrested at Kupru-Keui six months ago, nominally charged with killing a Mussulman.

It is doubtful whether these men should not be regarded as really political prisoners.

II.—BAYAZID.

There are three or four Armenians in prison at Bayazid on political charges, but I have not been able to ascertain their names or any particulars.

III.—ERZINGIAN.

1. Hagop Geragosian, a priest, was imprisoned on the 6th March, 1888, on a charge of sedition, and is still in prison.
2. Nishan Adzoni, a chemist, imprisoned on the 7th January, 1888.
3. Nishan Ahanian, since the 12th March, 1889.
4. Boghos Zarabedian, the 15th March, 1890.

5. Gazaros Manoukian, two months ago.
6. Two more, names unknown.

Most of the above were imprisoned on account of copies of national songs found in their possession, and are all still in custody.

IV.—ALASHGERD.

(A.)—*Kara Kelissa.*

1. Four from Keshish Keui, have been in prison about three months.
2. Four from Mazri Keui (Mordessi, Manouk, Rai Sefer, Astadour), in prison three months, on a charge of trying to obtain guns from Russia.
3. Three from Yunjalu (Shevi Oghlou, Boghos, Marka, and another), in prison two months, accused of corresponding with Russian Armenians.
4. Four from Mangazer, in prison same time as above, and on same charge.
5. One from Hidur, ditto, ditto.
6. Three from Kara Kelissa, out of ten arrested two months ago; seven have been released on bail.

(B.)—*Toprak Kala.*

Thirteen: Ohannis, his brother Sirkis, Parseh (member of the Local Council), Tatos (member of the Court of First Instance), Nahabed Varjabet, Sahag, Hamparsum, Hubebo Oghlou Krikor, Yerikian Sukias, Timurji Muggerdich, Serkisian Hazro, from Toprak Kala; Vahan, Parsek, son of Manouk, from Amad.

These thirteen were arrested two months ago, accused of having dealings with Russian Armenians and of having gone to the Russian village of Kaigsman for seditious purposes.

The prisoners say that they went to see the bride of one of their friends, according to the Armenian custom.

(Signed) CHARLES S. HAMPSON,
Acting Consul.

Inclosure 4 in No. 48.

Consul Jago to Sir W. White.

Sir, *Aleppo, March 20, 1891.*

IN reply to your Excellency's telegraphic inquiries dated the 14th instant, I have the honour to state that I am informed that there are now 101 Armenians imprisoned in the Vilayets of Aleppo and Adana, viz., 42 in Aleppo, 24 in Marash, 20 in Adana, and 15 in Pyass.

Those in Aleppo and Marash are people of Zeitoun accused, I believe, in connection with the murder of the gendarme, firing on the troops, aiding and sheltering the robbers, or acting as emissaries of the Revolutionary Committees.

Those in Adana come under the last category, while those at Pyass, all of one family, and said to be well educated, are accused, I believe, of aiding and sheltering the robbers of Zeitoun.

I have just been informed by a trustworthy Armenian source that recently Zeitoun robbers having pillaged near Marash a caravan composed of Moslems and Christians, without, however, plundering the Christians, the authorities of Marash have imprisoned about thirty Christians belonging to the villages in the neighbourhood of the attack on the ground of complicity with the robbers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. S. JAGO.

Inclosure 5 in No. 48.

Consul Longworth to Sir W. White.

Sir, *Trebizond, March 14, 1891.*

IN reply to your Excellency's telegram in cypher of this date, I beg to report as follows:—

Parsegh Zavarian, a Russian subject and Director of the Armenian School, who on the 12th instant was condemned to five years' confinement in a fort, is now the only

one in custody within the vilayet on the charge of conspiracy against the State. His arrest was effected on the 31st January last consequent on the police discovering among the letters seized at the post-offices, one sent to his address by a certain Vartan Katchaznuni, of St. Petersburgh, containing a paragraph of a compromising nature, which from the Russian text may be rendered thus into English:—

"Hodisoff's opinion of engaging capitalists in starting the contemplated factory is not recommendable, and his ideas as regards the future expected freedom of father-land are impracticable."

Annexed is a tabular list of Armenians who as political suspects had either been imprisoned here or transported to Constantinople. Those who had been retained for a day or two only are excluded from the list, as well as those arrested beyond but conveyed through this vilayet to the capital.

Of the Armenians who had taken to flight, the teacher Hamayak Gousbulian is one more than suspected of sedition, who by default has been condemned to seven years' imprisonment. A letter sent him to the care of Djanik Vartighian by Khanazadian of Tiflis, an ex-master of the Armenian School at Trebizond, and an old lodger of Baïzar Khanum, invites him clearly to bring about in these parts the circulation of the Armenian revolutionary paper "Henchag" (Trumpet), and to persuade the Prince, whose name is not mentioned, to proceed to Sivas for the same purpose. On the discovery of the letter Hemayak took himself off to no one knows where, leaving his father, brother, Prince Argoutoff, Djanik Vartighian, and Baïzar Khanum to suffer the consequences of his eluding the authorities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. Z. LONGWORTH.

Inclosure 6 in No. 48.

List of Armenians imprisoned at Trebizond or conveyed to Constantinople on Political Charges.

No.	Date of Arrest.	Name.	Nationality.	Profession.	Date of Release.	Remarks.
1	1890 June 6	Hadji Agop ..	Ottoman ..	Public crier ..	1890 Sept. 10	On using abusive language against Government.
2	„ 7	Serop Djezmedjian ..	Ditto	Butcher ..	Oct. 8	On expressing wish to see independence of Armenia.
3	Aug. 9	Agop Kenseyan ..	Austro-protection	Priest	Aug. 13	On suspicion of being a secret emissary. Released at Constantinople.
4	„ 9	Artin Dusnighian ..	Ottoman ..	Ditto	„ 13	On attempt to rescue Rev. Agop Kenseyan. Released at Constantinople.
5	„ 9	Eremia Vartighian ..	Ditto	Merchant ..	Sept. 14	Arrested at Samsoon as aiding Armenian emigration.
6	Sept. 4	Stephen	Russian ..	Pedlar ..	„ 8	On charge of supplying arms to Armenians.
7	„ 4	Oliaies	Ditto	Ditto	„ 8	Ditto.
8	Nov. 7	Agop Sinsarab ..	Ottoman ..	Commission Agent	1891 Jan. 25	On discovery of seven revolvers and 300 cartridges in box of candles.
9	„ 13	Bedros Marimian ..	Austro-protection	Dragoman ..	..	Imprisoned at Constantinople as agent of Revolutionary Committee.
10	„ 13	Marimian's brother ..	Ottoman ..	Silversmith ..	Jan. 10	For opposing arrest of his brother. Released at Constantinople.
11	„ 28	Prince Argoutoff ..	Russian ..	Professor ..	Mar. 12	On title "Prince" found in compromising letter to Hemayak.
12	„ 29	Hemayak's father ..	Ottoman ..	..	1890 Dec. 3	To compel return of escaped suspect Hemayak.
13	„ 29	Hemayak's brother ..	Ditto	Tailor	„ 4	Ditto.
14	Dec. 1	Djanik Vartighian ..	Ditto	Armenian Bishop's clerk	1891 Mar. 12	On compromising letter to Hemayak being sent to his care.
15	„ 6	Baizar Khanum ..	Ditto	Widow ..	„ 12	On ignoring all knowledge of her old lodger, Khanazadian, of Tiflis.
16	1891 Jan. 31	Paragh Gavarian ..	Russian ..	Professor ..	..	On having compromising letter sent him. Condemned to five years.

Trebizond, March 14, 1891.

Inclosure 7 in No. 48.

Vice-Consul Devey to Sir W. White.

Sir,

Van, March 17, 1891.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge your Excellency's telegram of the 14th instant, and to state that there are now ten prisoners only on seditious charges, and none from among those who took part in the riotous proceedings of the 4th ultimo in custody. About fifteen of those imprisoned have been released, and the man named Jonian who was arrested a second time was again set at liberty. No sentence has been passed upon the criminals in the case of outrage reported in my despatch of the 26th January to the Kurdistan Consulate.

I have heard nothing further of the Petition which was in course of secret preparation as described in a letter dated the 2nd instant, and addressed to the Acting Consul at Erzeroum.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE POLLARD DEVEY.

Inclosure 8 in No. 48.

Memorandum by Sir A. Sandison.

WITH reference to my Memorandum of the 28th March, I have the honour to report that the inclosed is the list of the prisoners in Van, Bitlis, and Erzeroum, as supplied to me by his Highness the Grand Vizier through Vekil Effendi.

This list of the Grand Vizier does not distinguish between political and ordinary prisoners for the vilayets of Van and Bitlis, while for Erzeroum the Turkish total (seventy-six) does not agree with that furnished by Her Majesty's Consular Officers.

Pera, April 17, 1891.

(Signed) A. SANDISON.

Inclosure 9 in No. 48.

Situation au 17 (29) Mars, 1891.

Vilayet de Van.

Prisonniers Arméniens	29 personnes	Ces deux chiffres représentent le nombre des prévenus de toutes sortes de crimes et délits y compris les criminels politiques.
„ Musulmans	96 „	

Vilayet de Bitlis.

Prisonniers Arméniens	53 personnes	Idem.
„ Musulmans	350 „	

Vilayet d'Erzeroum.

Prisonniers Arméniens	100 personnes	Soixante-seize de ces prisonniers Arméniens sont des criminels politiques dont dix-neuf sont déjà jugés et condamnés par jugements.

No. 49.

Sir E. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 7.)

(No. 90. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Berlin, May 6, 1891.

WITH reference to Sir William White's despatch No. 309 of the 17th ultimo respecting the danger of an outbreak amongst the Armenians, I have the honour to inclose herewith a translation of a letter which I received in the month of February from Mgr. Megueditch, Catholicos of Cilicia, who is, I believe, the principal ecclesiastical dignitary of the Armenian Church in Western Armenia.

The letter being written in Armenian, I forwarded it to Sir Charles Cookson at Alexandria, who has sent me the accompanying translation.

I have thought it safer not even to acknowledge the receipt of the letter, as the mere fact of a communication from me to the Archbishop, whatever its purport, would be capable of misconstruction; but your Lordship may see fit to transmit a copy of it to Sir William White for his information, and he might perhaps intimate that it had been received if he saw no objection to doing so.

I should explain that I made the acquaintance of the Catholicos in January 1879, when I was sent to Aleppo to inquire into the alleged cruelties of the present Grand Vizier, who was at that time Governor-General of the province, and that it became in consequence my duty later on, when Minister at Constantinople, to press for his Excellency's recall, which was conceded.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

Inclosure in No. 49.

The Catholicos of Cilicia to Sir E. Malet.

(Traduction.)
Excellence, *Alexandrette, le 29 Janvier* (10 *Février*), 1891.

COMME il est doux de voir un ami arriver à un haut rang. J'ai appris avec beaucoup de plaisir et de satisfaction votre nomination comme Ambassadeur à Berlin; j'ai regretté que la nature de mes fonctions et les crises actuelles ne m'aient pas permis depuis longtemps de vous présenter mes compliments et de vous exprimer ma plus vive joie et mes meilleurs sentiments.

Maintenant que je le puis, je m'empresse de vous transmettre mes félicitations les plus cordiales et tous mes vœux.

Excusez-moi si je profite de cette occasion pour vous exposer les souffrances des Arméniens de la Turquie, étant assuré que vous les aimez toujours, que vous êtes bienveillant, philanthrope, juste, et que vous avez beaucoup de pitié pour les malheureux.

La malheureuse Cilicie que vous avez défendue avec tant d'affection et tant d'énergie, est en agonie. Le Gouverneur d'Alep, Kiamil Pacha, cet homme farouche et dure, ennemi invétéré des Arméniens et que vous avez fait destituer, est maintenant Vice-Roi et l'instrument du Sultan; il fait subir à tous les Arméniens et surtout aux pauvres Ciliciens tous les maux possibles. L'Archevêque de Cilicie, des diacres, des prêtres et une centaine de Notables sont dans des cachots où ils sont torturés; il leur est défendu toute communication et on ne peut même pas porter de la nourriture aux ecclésiastiques. Tous les Ciliciens sont terrorisés par les militaires; tous leurs biens sont confisqués sous prétexte d'imposition.

De même à Hadjin, une trentaine de Notables sont déjà emprisonnés et chaque jour il y a de nouvelles arrestations.

Le Gouvernement oppresse tellement les mille maisons Arméniennes de Payasse avec l'aide des Musulmans fanatiques, que les habitants, tout à fait désespérés, pensent quitter le pays; ils ont formé les églises les jours de Noël et du Nouvel An et ils n'ont pas eu de service religieux pendant ces saints jours. Les prêtres nous ayant adressé ces tristes nouvelles, nous en avons informé le Gouverneur d'Adana, le Vice-Roi, et nous avons même imploré la clémence du Sultan; ils n'ont eu aucune compassion et les tortures augmentent de jour en jour.

Les Arméniens de toutes les localités subissent le même sort; et le Sultan, pour induire en erreur les Puissances Européennes, déclare une amnistie générale tandis qu'il envoie des instructions secrètes à ses fonctionnaires pour pousser l'oppression à l'extrême; voilà dans quel état déplorable se trouvent l'Arménie et surtout la Cilicie.

Même la transmission de nos dépêches n'est pas assurée; en effet, en réponse à celles que nous expédions au Patriarcat de Constantinople, nous en recevons de falsifiées, c'est ce qui explique que les nôtres sont interceptées et portées soit à Kiamil Pacha, soit au Sultan, qui nous envoie au nom du Patriarche Arménien des dépêches fabriquées.

Votre Excellence voit par cet exposé jusqu'à quel point le Gouvernement Ottoman exerce sa tyrannie et ses atrocités sur tous les Arméniens. L'histoire suivante vous donnera une idée des cruautés sans pareilles des Turcs. Il y a sept à huit mois le Gouverneur de Marache, le barbare Saleh Pacha, sous couleur de bienfait, a envoyé auprès des pauvres de la Cilicie un médecin muni d'un vaccin empoisonné qui a tué 500 enfants; c'est un massacre comme celui qu'a ordonné Hérode à la naissance de notre Sauveur Jésus-Christ.

Je vous demande pardon de vous écrire en Arménien; je n'ai trouvé ici aucun homme de confiance sachant une langue Européenne, et je sais que vous aimez la langue Arménienne; j'ai fait de même en écrivant à plusieurs honorables de Londres.

Certainement ma lettre ne tombera par entre des mains étrangères, car vous savez bien, Excellence, que c'est dangereux.

Pour l'amour de Dieu, au nom l'humanité et pour l'honneur de Sa Majesté la Reine d'Angleterre, je vous supplie d'avoir pitié, de secourir et de sauver par votre haute influence notre misérable nation des griffes des tyrans; cette petite nation affligée croit au même Dieu et est Chrétienne comme les nations Européennes; elle est malheureuse et pourtant créée à l'image de Dieu comme tous les Chrétiens; elle n'est point sauvage ou une bête de somme.

Affaibli et affligé dans mes vieux jours, je ne cesse de pleurer et c'est en versant des larmes abondantes que je m'adresse à vous qui êtes si bon et si charitable, pour que chacun de ces malheureux reçoivent aide et protection des Puissances par votre entremise; votre nom est et sera toujours cher pour nous et immortel parmi nous. Vous me voyez le père d'une nation digne de pitié et opprimée.

Je suis le Patriarche, votre frère en Jésus-Christ, que vous avez connu pendant les premiers événements de Cilicie sous le Gouvernorat de Kiamil Pacha, quand Mr. Henderson était Consul et que vous y étiez venu pour dresser un Rapport sur la situation de nôtre contrée; nous nous sommes revus à Constantinople où vous avez daigné me faire visite; j'ai été très heureux d'avoir mérité votre sympathie.

Les grandes améliorations dont vous avez dotées la Cilicie sont encore gravées dans nos cœurs; vous êtes béni chaque jour, vous nous avez sauvés des mains du tyran Kiamil Pacha. Cette fois vous nous accorderez un bienfait encore plus grand en intervenant dans la question Arménienne.

Je prie Dieu pour que vous soyez nommé incessamment Ambassadeur en Turquie, alors les pauvres Arméniens auront en vous leur plus grand protecteur immédiat.

Veuillez agréer, Excellence, avec mes bénédictions, l'assurance, &c.
(Signé) K. MEGUERDITCH,
Catholicos de Cilicie.*

No. 50.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 15.)

(No. 178.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, May* 5, 1891.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 88 of the 13th March, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Acting Consul at Erzeroum, informing me of further accusations that have been brought to his knowledge against Ahmed Bey, ex-Kaïmakam of Alashgird.

By my instructions, Sir A. Sandison at once brought the matter to the notice of the Grand Vizier.

His Highness, in reply, stated that he thought Halim Bey, Ahmed's successor, was likely to proceed at once to his post at Alashgird, and that he would not delay his arrival till the Vali returned, as represented by Mr. Hampson.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 50.

Acting Consul Hampson to Sir W. White.

Sir, *Erzeroum, April* 18, 1891.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that I continue to hear most serious accusations from Alashgird against Ahmed Bey, who, although dismissed from the position of Kaïmakam, continues to act as such until the arrival of his successor. He takes bribes now in the most shamelessly open manner, demanding sums of 10*l.* and 15*l.* from poor peasants, and forcing them to sell or mortgage all they have.

I hear, from more than one source, that strenuous endeavours are being made to

* Archevêque suprême.

obtain the reversal of Ahmed's dismissal, on the ground that Halim, his successor, is too old and feeble for the post. I fear that there is some truth in this statement, and certainly Alashgird is no post for a weak, broken-down old man. But, in any case, I trust that Ahmed will not be allowed to remain to continue his course of active evil.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES S. HAMPSON.

P.S.—Halim is now here, having arrived from Constantinople. I do not know when he leaves for Alashgird, but he will probably await the Vali's return.

C. S. H.

No. 51.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 15.)

(No. 190.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, May* 11, 1891.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Acting Consul at Erzeroum, reporting an exodus of Armenians from that place.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 51.

Acting Consul Hampson to Sir W. White.

Sir, *Erzeroum, May* 2, 1891.

I HAVE on several occasions mentioned to your Excellency that, in consequence of the great want of confidence that exists, and of the consequent failure of trade, many Armenian families were leaving Erzeroum.

I have now the honour to give you a few particulars on this subject.

Great difficulties are put in the way of Christians wishing to leave, otherwise the figures would be far larger than those I quote. No permission is granted to families to enter Russian territory, but men, unaccompanied by families, can do so after numerous questions have been asked.

I only give such figures as I have been able to ascertain to be exact; most probably they could be largely increased, and undoubtedly very many more Armenians are most anxious to get away, even at very heavy sacrifices of their property and business here.

Last autumn nearly twenty Armenian families, all of some position, left for Constantinople and elsewhere.

Already this spring seven families, all of tradesmen holding more or less good positions, have left; one for Constantinople, four for Arbkir (near Kharput), and two for Erzingian. Five more rich merchants are leaving shortly with their families for Constantinople.

During last month alone seventy Armenian men from the Gregorian community left Erzeroum, unaccompanied by families, mostly for Russia.

These particulars will give your Excellency some idea of the magnitude of the exodus of Christians which is taking place, and which, if difficulties were removed, would be largely increased.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES S. HAMPSON.

No. 52.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 15.)

(No. 192.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, May* 11, 1891.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 178 of the 5th instant, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have this day

received from Her Majesty's Acting Consul at Erzeroum, reporting the return of the Vali from Alashgird.

Mr. Hampson states that his Excellency's journey has been productive of considerable good, several officials have been dismissed, and Christians have been instructed to address their complaints to the Vali direct.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 52.

Acting Consul Hampson to Sir W. White.

Sir, *Erzeroum, May* 2, 1891.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that the Governor-General returned last Monday from his tour in the Alashgird and Passim districts.

I hope and believe that this journey will have been productive of considerable good. In addition to the change of the Kaimakam at Kara-Kilissa, I hear that his Excellency has dismissed various subordinate officials at Bayazid and elsewhere; and informed the Heads of the Christian communities throughout the districts which he traversed that, if they had any complaints against the local authorities, they were to apply direct to himself.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES S. HAMPSON.

No. 53.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 15.)

(No. 193. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, May* 11, 1891.

WITH reference to my despatches Nos. 145 and 169 of the 10th and 27th ultimo, I have the honour to inclose a copy of a further despatch from Mr. Acting Consul Hampson, transmitting a confidential despatch from Mr. Vice-Consul Boyadjian, reporting the state of feeling among the Armenians of the Diarbekir and Kharput districts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 53.

Acting Consul Hampson to Sir W. White.

Sir, *Erzeroum, May* 2, 1891.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Excellency a confidential despatch received from Acting Vice-Consul Boyadjian, reporting a very uneasy feeling among the Armenians of the Diarbekir and Kharput districts.

Your Excellency will observe how closely the account given by Mr. Boyadjian and Mr. Barton agrees with the account of the feeling existing among the Armenians in this district, which I have had the honour to submit to you in my Confidential despatches of the 21st March and the 18th April respectively.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES S. HAMPSON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 53.

Acting Vice-Consul Boyadjian to Acting Consul Hampson.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Diarbekir, April* 13, 1891.

I HAVE the honour to communicate to you what has been lately confidentially reported to me by the Rev. J. L. Barton, one of the American missionaries of

Kharput, with reference to a dangerous movement among the Armenians in the districts of Kharput and Palu, and I cannot do better than quote from his letter for your information.

Mr. Barton states:—

"I have been much in the villages this winter, and I find that in this (Kharput) plain and in Palu and the plain there is a great state of expectancy; Armenians are procuring arms to a considerable extent, and talk of the need of spilling blood that they may obtain freedom. They are confident that England, or France, or Russia, they do not know which, is coming to their aid this spring. They affirm that over 100,000 Armenians under foreign officers are fully armed and drilled, and ready for an advance upon the Turks this spring; they are not sure whether these troops are in Persia or Russia. I fear that a few hot-headed men are exciting the Armenians of this country with false reports, and the Armenians, acting upon these and talking about them, are greatly injuring their relations with the Mahommedans. In many, if not all, of these villages there is a spirit of doubt and distrust between the two races; in some places, as Ashuntsik and Ilchmé, the Moslims openly threatened to arise and slay the Christians; the Turks of Ilchmé have attempted to excite the Kurds against the Christians, and, failing in this, two weeks ago they gathered in large numbers in their quarter, and shouted to the Moslims to come and unite in killing all the Armenians; they tell me they fired guns and carried on to such extent, that the Christians fully expected that their time had come; they armed themselves and waited, but nothing came of it. There is certainly danger that in the present excited state of these two classes a small matter may lead to dire results."

I have only to remark that information of a similar nature has been received by me from time to time from other sources, confirming Mr. Barton's statement. Armenians in disguise from Russia or other countries are actively engaged in exciting the deluded Armenians in this country to a seditious rising, and I need hardly state that it would be extremely foolish in them to take such a step, for it would serve to no purpose, but only expose them to a danger the seriousness of which no one is able to calculate.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS BOYADJIAN.

No. 54.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 15.)

(No. 195.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, May 11, 1891.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch addressed to me by Mr. Acting Consul Hampson, in which he points out the difference of treatment extended by officials to Armenians and Mussulmans, very much to the advantage of the latter.

It does not, however, appear to me that the charges are of a sufficiently specific character to admit of my bringing them, in this instance, to the notice of the Grand Vizier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 54.

Acting Consul Hampson to Sir W. White.

Sir, *Erzeroum, May 2, 1891.*

I BEG to call your Excellency's attention to a few points in regard to which the Christian subjects of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan in this district are evidently not treated on an equal footing with the Mussulmans, in spite of all Regulations to the contrary. The instances which I now submit to your Excellency are simple matters of fact, and not open to discussion, like the question of the justice which Christians receive in the Law Courts, and other matters of the same nature, and are not mentioned in the late Consul Lloyd's Minute of the 1st October and the 2nd December, 1890:—

1. By the Regulations ("Tanzimat") of 1255, confirmed in 1293 (1875), it is declared that Mussulmans and Christians alike ("Msawat") are to be employed in all public offices—including, of course, the police force—and as clerks, &c., in the Government Offices and Courts of Justice.

In spite of this Regulation, in the whole of the police force in the Erzeroum district there are, I believe, three Christian zaptiehs.

As to Christians employed as Government officials, omitting the Christian members of the Council and Law Courts, of whom the necessary number is exactly laid down by law, there is not in Erzeroum a single Christian official with the exception of Michael Effendi, the Dragoman of the vilayet, and Krikor Effendi Shabanian, Head of the Public Debt, with two subordinate officials from Constantinople.

Thus the Regulation that Mussulmans and Christians alike are to be employed in the police force and in the public offices is practically a dead letter.

I may here mention that, during the five years for which Krikor Effendi has directed the Office of Public Debt, the receipts of that office have increased nearly three-fold.

2. The proportion of Mussulman families to Christian families in Erzeroum is nearly two to one. Their respective wealth is, at least, in the same proportion. In spite of these facts, the amount of the income-tax ("vergu"), nominally of 1 per cent. levied from the Christians in this town, is equal to that levied from the Mussulmans.

3. On the amount of income-tax thus levied, a further sum of 5 per cent. is collected from Mussulmans and Christians alike. The sum so levied, called "Ma'aritianessy," is devoted to the maintenance of schools. Not a piastre of this sum, however, is given to help Christian schools. The whole is employed for Mussulman schools, which no Christian can attend. On the tithe, also, a sum of ½ per cent. is charged for the schools, which sum likewise goes entirely to Mussulman schools.

4. Till lately, if any inhabitant of the town was about to make a journey, in order to obtain the necessary papers from the local authorities, he had only to present a certificate from the Head of his community—if a Mussulman, from the Ulema of his district; if a Protestant, Catholic, or Orthodox Armenian, from the Millet-Bashi, or his respective Bishop, stating his respectability. At present, a Christian, before receiving his passport, is obliged to present not only papers from the Head of his own community, but also to obtain certificates from the Mussulman Chiefs of his district. This demand has given great offence to the Heads of the Christian communities.

These points, which I have ventured to bring to your Excellency's notice, may seem small in themselves, but they are not so in the opinion of the Christians of this district; and all of them, more especially the first, have a very sensible effect on the position and feelings of Christians towards the Government.

Meanwhile, the ill-feeling between Mussulmans and Christians is daily on the increase. The former behave with contempt and abuse to the latter, refusing to pay their debts, and beating and maltreating any Christian who dares to protest, or to ask for his due. The Christians on their side are in a state of sullen discontent, and declare that, at least, they will not be massacred without resistance. In fact, a very small spark is all that is necessary to put the whole place in a blaze. I still hope that the Vali, by his energy, will prevent any outbreak, and that, if all is quiet for another month or two, confidence will gradually be restored; but things are in a critical condition, and it would do much to allay the uneasiness if such evident causes of discontent as those which I have quoted at the commencement of this despatch were removed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES S. HAMPSON.

No. 55.

Consul Jago to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 15.)

(No. 1.)

My Lord, *Aleppo, April 18, 1891.*

IN tendering to your Lordship my respectful thanks for the permission granted to me in Sir T. H. Sanderson's despatch No. 1, dated the 16th September, 1890, to visit the Vilayet of Adana, I have the honour to submit herewith a Report on the province in question, resulting from my visit there early in March last.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

The expenses of my journey, amounting to 30*l.* 7*s.* 1*d.*, I have passed in my account current for the quarter ended the 31st March, 1891.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. S. JAGO.

Inclosure in No. 55.

Report on the Vilayet of Adana.

Boundaries.—The Vilayet of Adana, chief town of the same name, one of the smallest provinces of Asiatic Turkey, is bounded on the north by the Vilayets of Koniah and Sivas; on the south by the Mediterranean Sea; on the east by the Vilayets of Aleppo and Angora; and on the west by that of Koniah.

Area.—Its area is estimated at 30,000 square miles.

Subdivisions.—It is divided into five sandjaks, viz., Adana, Itchyel, Kozan, and Jebel Bereket, each governed, with the exception of Adana, which is the seat of the Governor-General, by a Mutessarif or Governor. These five sandjaks are again subdivided into nineteen cazas, each governed, with the exception of those where the Mutessarifs reside, by a Kaïmakam or Sub-Governor.

The names of the above subdivisions, with their populations, are as follows:—

Name of Sandjak.	Number of Cazas.	Names of Cazas.	Population.		Total Population.	Official Residence of Kaïmakam.
			Moslem.	Christian.		
Adana	2	Adana ..	68,049	12,616	70,665	
		Kara Hissarlu ..	10,387	19	10,406	Tchitchely.
Mersina ..	1	Mersina ..	20,161	1,415	21,576	
Tarsous ..	1	Tarsous ..	38,037	2,284	38,121	
Itchyel	5	Selefki ..	23,828	1,032	24,860	Selefki.
		Armanak ..	24,032	59	24,091	
		Gulnar ..	16,303	272	16,575	
		Mout	11,972	31	12,003	
		Anamour ..	22,557	330	22,887	
Kozan	4	Cis	18,338	2,185	20,523	Cis.
		Hadjeen ..	13,026	11,031	24,057	
		Fekki	9,796	3,123	9,919	
		Kars	14,109	720	14,829	Bazar.
Jebel Bereket ..	6	Islahieh ..	8,355	293	8,648	
		Osmanié ..	7,764	100	7,864	
		Yarpuz ..	3,020	357	3,377	
		Khassa ..	7,080	595	7,675	
		Pyass	13,207	3,623	16,830	
		Boulanik ..	8,747	2,317	8,964	Bagtcheh.
	19		328,769	42,102	371,171	

Population.—The total population, as given by the Salnamé, or official handbook of the province, of March 1890, is 384,305, viz., 201,730 males and 172,635 females, but the addition of the items given in the preceding Table only arrives at 371,171, showing a discrepancy of over 13,000. Admiral Woods, of the Turkish navy, in a Table of the populations of Asia Minor, recently published by him, gives the population of the Vilayet of Adana as 378,698, divided into the following sects:—

Moslems		336,914
Christians—		
Armenians	31,876	
Greeks	5,847	
Protestants	2,150	
Catholics	1,401	
Syrians	97	
Jews	3	
Europeans	410	
		41,784
Total		378,698

The Christian element given by official Returns is, however, considered by all to be understated. The total population may therefore be said to be something under 400,000, of which about 11 per cent. are Christians.

Language.—Although the language of the bulk of the population, including Armenians and natives of the Greek Church, is Turkish, the Nusariehs or Sabians, numbering between 15,000 and 20,000 souls, immigrants from Syria, are Arabic speaking. As regards foreign languages, Greek is largely spoken in the towns owing to the trade and commerce being in a great measure in the hands of Cypriots, Sciotes, and others.

Agriculture.—In the absence of any native industry of importance, agriculture is the direct and indirect occupation of all, and upon its success the well-being of the inhabitants wholly depends. Crops are classed under two heads, viz., summer and winter, the former comprising cereals, the latter cotton and sesame, the land being sown alternately with one or the other. To insure success sufficient winter rainfall is necessary for the former, and an absence of hot winds and sufficient spring rains for the latter. These essential conditions are seldom fulfilled, and, consequently, failure of crops are of frequent occurrence.

Unfortunately, no efforts are made to counteract such by irrigation, the contents of the numerous rivers, which otherwise might be utilized with incalculable advantage, being allowed to flow unheeded into the sea.

Cotton.—Adana cotton has been renowned for centuries for its superiority over other Turkish cotton, and two centuries ago formed a considerable item of export to England by the English factors of Aleppo.

The crop of 1889 yielded only 11,000 bales, while that of 1890 reached 65,000 bales, of an average value of 8*l.* per bale. Planting is done in March and picking in August. It is of dark colour and short staple. Little goes to England, where it only works up to No. 10 of yarn. About a third of the crop goes to other Turkish provinces, and the rest to France and Austria.

Last year a little American seed was tried, with success, producing longer and a whiter staple. It, however, requires renewal every three years to prevent deterioration.

Agricultural Machines.—These are largely employed, and their number is yearly increasing, their value becoming self-evident to the people. At present there are 11 steam threshing machines, costing about 500*l.* each, and 900 reaping machines (American), costing about 30*l.* each. Despite drawbacks of climate, improvement and progress in agriculture are everywhere apparent, chiefly induced by the native Christian (chiefly Armenian) and foreign Greek elements, which are largely engaged in agricultural enterprise, and are slowly, but surely, ousting the apathetic Moslem element.

Peasantry.—The condition of the peasantry is far superior to that in the adjoining Vilayet of Aleppo, where, however, agriculture is entirely in the hands of the non-progressive, ignorant, and indolent Mahommedan. The system pursued, generally, is as follows: The owner of the land provides seed, oxen, and pays taxes; the peasant supplying labour and cultivation, and receiving half of the produce. The peasant class is divided into two, viz., the Nusarieh or Sabian, 15,000 to 20,000 in number, known as "fellahs," and the native Turkish. The former, who emigrated from Syria (Latakia) about seventy years ago to these plains, are industrious and laborious. They are to be found from Mersina to Tarsous and Adana, a distance of about 50 miles. The market gardens of the towns are in their hands, and their outskirts are dotted with the small plots and huts of the gardeners, who are remarkable for their thrift and industry.

Extensive villages of them are also scattered all along near the coast. Their origin enables them to withstand, with comparative impunity, the great heats of the plains in summer, and the fevers attending them; unlike the Turkish cultivator, who deserts his village and flies to the adjoining hills for shelter, returning only for a short stay to gather hurriedly his crop.

The short season of harvest, and the necessity, owing to the great heats, of cutting and threshing as speedily as possible, have from old times brought annually into the district from the interior large numbers of harvesters, Armenians and Kurds, said to be over 5,000, who are employed at good wages, relatively good in proportion to the risks to health they run through the great heats and the accompanying fevers.

I did not, however, find that the great mortality among these harvesters, commonly supposed to take place, actually occurs, although no doubt few escape the evil effects of exposure.

Tithes.—During the last five years tithes have been paid in money and not in kind, the land-owners and villagers eagerly competing, and generally successfully, for the adjudgment of their respective tithes to themselves. This system works well both

for Government and farmers, the latter of whom are saved the trouble, worry, and expenses entailed under the old régime when the tithe was levied by the Government in kind. The gain to Government is also immense, as doing away with the necessity of employing an army of employés, and the great abuses inseparately connected therewith. Under the old system, the Head Government Store-keeper at Adana paid 300*l.* for his post, the salary of which was 20*l.* per month for the season from August to February.

Silk and Mulberry Trees.—During the last three years efforts have been made to introduce sericulture, and the cultivation of the mulberry tree is being largely extended around Messina, Tarsous, and Adana, and with good results.

Vineyards.—A large increase is taking place, the produce being sent to France in the shape of dried raisins. No wine is made, the grape being unsuited. About 16,000 acres are under cultivation.

Roads.—Good roads exist throughout the vilayet, and are kept in pretty good order.

Trade and Commerce.—The Returns of trade during the past five years have been as follows :—

	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£
1886	662,600	788,620
1887	392,600	470,712
1888	365,800	329,273
1889	355,420	371,150
1890	404,300	651,950

Exports.—As regards imports, little comes direct from Europe, the bulk being sent from the depôts of Beyrout and Smyrna, where they are purchased by the agents of local traders. Their places of origin is, therefore, often difficult to discover. England sends nearly all the cotton goods, as well as metals, machinery, sacking, earthenware, &c.

Imports.—France is the largest customer for the products of the province, taking nearly two-thirds of the whole, owing to direct steam communication with Marseilles, and to the credits given by French firms to local merchants at Messina and Adana. Too much reliance cannot be placed, however, on the above Trade Returns as regards exports; those from the smaller ports of Selefki, Caradash, Yamourtalik, &c., being omitted for the years 1888-90, not being procurable.

Native Industries.—These are few in number and small in importance. The silk-reeling industry is still in its infancy. A cotton spinning mill established at Tarsous by an enterprising Cypriote merchant three years ago, containing 2,700 spindles, is a success, and the yarn, Nos. 4 to 18, commands a ready sale in this and other Turkish provinces. Cotton ginning factories in abundance exist both at Adana and Tarsous. Water is everywhere the motive power.

Schools.—As regards Moslem education, a high school exists in Adana and Ruchdié schools in the smaller towns, but here as elsewhere education is desultory and apathetic, and is far outstripped by the native Christians, Armenians, and Greeks, who all strain their efforts to perfect as far as possible the education of their children, many of whom are sent to Smyrna, Beyrout, and France for the purpose.

Foreign Missions.—These are American (Protestant) and Roman Catholics. In Mersina the American Reformed Presbyterian Church, connected with the Irish Church of the same denomination, have schools for Arabic-speaking boys and girls. The Capucin Convent, aided by sisters, have also schools for children belonging to the Latin community. In Tarsous exists St. Paul's Institute (American), supported by the charitable in the United States and Canada, having a boarding school for boys, chiefly destitute, of the Armenian and Greek Churches, coming from Kaisseriah and other towns of the interior.

A girls' school is also shortly to be opened. The staff consists of two resident clergymen and a physician, with their families.

In Adana the Central Turkey Mission (American) have a branch here with a large school for girls, with two resident clergymen, with their wives and two lady teachers. The Jesuits have also recently opened a school here.

The disinclination of the Turkish authorities to afford facilities for the opening of foreign mission schools and chapels, on the plea that such serve as a focus of political

propaganda and the dissemination of opinions and ideas incompatible with due allegiance to the Porte, is as apparent here as in Aleppo and Syria, and applications of recent years for such permission is almost invariably refused or delayed. These difficulties, however, created by the Porte, and sustained half-heartedly by the local authorities, are generally overcome, or circumvented, by the practice adopted by the missions of hiring houses as private residences, opening schools on these premises, and converting the most eligible apartment into a chapel for divine service, pending permission to erect suitable edifices.

Railway.—The small (English) line from Mersina to Tarsous and Adana, a distance of 42 miles, was opened in March 1886 at a cost of 160,000*l.*; paid no dividend during the first three years, owing to failure of crops and consequent curtailment of traffic. Things are now looking better; last year expenses were paid, and this year a dividend will be available. The shortness of the line, excessive cost, militate against any hope of its being a financial success, but efforts are being made to obtain leave of extension to Osmanié.

Ports.—With the exception of Yamourtalik, close to Ayass, a land-locked and magnificent natural port but little used, no harbour exists on the coast of the vilayet. The ports of Mersina (which holds the chief place for exports and imports), Caradash, Selefki, Celendri, and Anamour are open roadsteads unprotected from the south-west winds, which, however, rarely blow heavily enough to cause disaster to shipping. Despite the bar of the River Cydnus, which flows past Adana, sailing-barges in summer come up to the city for corn, which they convey to ships in Mersina roads.

Public Security.—A remarkable absence of crime against the person and property obtains throughout the vilayet, and which, I was informed, dates from very old times. This is not ascribed to police efficiency, but to the character of the people. I was much struck with the facility with which journeys by carriage and without escort or guards of any kind was habitually performed by natives and foreigners from Adana to Kaisseriah, Koniah, Adalia, and Smyrna, and dangers from robbers or foot-pads were never dreamt of.

Police.—In Adana a force of gendarmes of fifty men is maintained, of which fifteen are horse and thirty-five foot. The men, chiefly Nusseriah, are all regularly paid. Eight police agents are also employed, one for every quarter of the town, attached to the police stations, under the orders of a Commissary of the Police of the Second Class.

In the smaller towns a similar force is employed in diminished numbers. The usual complaints of abuses obtain.

Military Forces.—The military forces of the vilayet form part of the 5th Corps d'Armée, head-quarters at Damascus. They comprise three battalions of infantry, two of which are stationed at Adana, and the other at Fekki, in the Kozan Dagh. The Adana battalions furnish small garrisons of twenty to thirty men each to Mersina, Tarsous, and Selefki. At Adana is stationed a Siwa Pasha in charge of the head-quarters of the Reserves.

Circassians.—The history and present condition of the Circassian and Tartar immigrants, sent as colonists by the Turkish Government to the Vilayet of Adana, are sad. Having seen much of the Circassian Colonies in the Vilayets of Aleppo and Syria, I was prepared for the state of things in the Adana Vilayet.

A few years after the Crimean War large numbers of the Nogais Tartars were persuaded to leave their homes under promise of better things in Turkey, and about 30,000 arrived in Adana, of which the bulk were planted in the extremely fertile, but unhealthy, virgin plains of Osmanié, chiefly at Yerswat, a few being scattered in the villages about Mersina and Tarsous. Of this large number only about 4,000 now remain; marsh and other fevers incidental to the disturbance of virgin soil, together with the excessive heat in summer, having accounted for the remainder, with the exception of a few who went to Koniah and other parts of the interior.

Uncleanliness, and inability to withstand the great heat of the plains, which tries the constitution of the strongest native, who, however, generally seeks refuge in the hills when possible, caused great mortality among them, and a remnant only is left. After the Russo-Turkish War a large number of well-to-do Bulgarian peasants arrived, but, finding the climate and country unsuited, left for other parts of the interior, and now only about fifteen to twenty families remain. At the same time, 10,000 to 12,000 Nogais Tartars also arrived, and were scattered among the villages of Mersina and Tarsous, but many died shortly after arrival, and after three to four months they dispersed, the bulk going to Yerswat and other Nogais Colonies in the Osmanié plains.

Last autumn (November 1890) 6,300 Circassians, destined for Koniah, arrived at Selefki and Mersina, but the Koniah authorities having declined to receive them, they were ordered to be landed at the Adana ports, and waste lands to be allotted to them in the vilayet. Cholera breaking out shortly after their arrival, they were dispersed throughout the villages and towns, hutted in a miserable manner, and receiving only bread rations from the Government.

They came from the country about Anapa, are robust and healthy-looking peasants, all with large families, well clad, and fairly supplied with cash in Russian paper roubles. When I was at Adana early in March they were still there, doing nothing, awaiting allotments of lands, and looking very miserable and disheartened, the accounts they had received of their fellow-countrymen who had preceded them having already prepared them for the life in store for them.

They complained much of the manner in which they had been deceived, and of the fair promises held out to them to desert their native land by their Imaums and others. Fear of Russian military service seemed to have been the chief cause of their quitting their country.

Some of the better-to-do Chiefs had already left Adana for other parts of Turkey. Their conduct was most exemplary, and I could not discover a complaint against them on any score. They were armed, not with rifles or guns, but with the traditional long dagger and pistol, which form part of their national costume, even little boys of 10 or 12 years having such appendages. They are now leaving Adana (March 16) for the Sandjaks of Kozan and Jebel Bereket, where waste and fertile lands have been chosen for them in the plains of those districts, viz., Osmanié, Cis, &c., the mountainous districts of these regions not permitting settlement, not possessing sufficient cultivable land even for the natives.

No fears appear to be entertained of them by the Armenian and other Christians there, the former living chiefly in the mountains, being perfectly well able, I was told, to take care of themselves in case of necessity, and being, I was assured, all armed. As regards the Circassian Colonies already established at Yerswat and elsewhere in the Cilician plains, I could hear of no complaint save of a little cattle and horse stealing on rare occasions, and during the two years, since when tobacco-planting has begun, some smuggling.

Regarding these new arrivals they were regarded by the people with pity, and as surely to fall victims to the climate as their predecessors.

Revenue.—The revenue of the vilayet varies between 200,000*l.* and 300,000*l.*, varying according to the success or otherwise of the harvests. No havalés are drawn by Constantinople on the province.

Salaries of public functionaries and servants are regularly paid. The revenues are burdened with the annual payment of 70,000*l.* on account of the Russian War indemnity, payable out of tithes, leaving last year an excess of 18,000*l.* to the credit of the Imperial exchequer.

The revenue of the past year was as follows:—

Name of Sandjak.	Land Tax.	Military Exemption Tax.	Tithes.	Sheep and Goat Tax.	Judicial Fees.	Miscellaneous.	Forests.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Adana	17,419	1,281	66,021	13,764	1,422	62	2,015
Mersina	8,714	420	22,447	5,880	660	..	..
Itchyel	10,512	179	15,662	12,191	307	..	1,237
Kozan	7,228	2,125	2,061	7,473	142	..	13
Jebel Bereket	5,532	818	8,580	9,201	134	139	442
Totals	49,435	4,923	121,771	55,312	2,970	201	3,707
			217,510				

The customs revenue vary between 16,000*l.* and 20,000*l.*, the bulk of the imports having already paid duty at other Turkish ports.

General Remarks.—The difference between the two provinces of Aleppo and Adana are striking, and it is difficult to believe that they are in the same Empire, and so near.

In the former we have large, fertile, and comparatively healthy tracts of country, practically uninhabited and devoid of roads. The sparse agricultural population, composed exclusively of Mahommedans of various and antagonistic sects, indolent, ignorant, and apathetic, cultivating unprofitably far too much land for their means,

and protected by the Government in their relations with local capitalists in a manner as to preclude all chance of obtaining from them any pecuniary assistance, while receiving no encouragement and assistance in any shape in developing or improving cultivation, and for the sale of their produce by means of roads or railways. On the other hand, we have the commercial and trading classes, composed exclusively of Christians, Jews, and a few Europeans, the education, intellect, and energy of the country, cooped up in the towns, effectually debarred by insecurity and lack of protection from engaging in agricultural enterprise of any kind, and obliged to compete with each other for bare livelihood in commercial pursuits. The road from Alexandretta to Aleppo, 96 miles, is typical of the country; besides a few miserable villages at rare intervals the country is desolate, and four khans for travellers, often empty, are the only signs of the land being inhabited. Not a garden patch or tree is visible. And this state of things is the same everywhere, once beyond the precincts of the towns, throughout the Province of Aleppo.

In Adana everything is changed. Agricultural pursuits are engaged in by all. The European (chiefly Greek), the native Armenian and Greek elements possess everywhere large farms, cultivated by them on joint account with the Turkish or Arab (Nusarieh) peasants, and the desolation visible in the Aleppo Vilayet is replaced by life and movement everywhere. Every one seems busy, and the roads and streets are full of traffic. The Moslem and Christian element work together, having but one interest in common. Hence agricultural progress, and an amount of civilization and prosperity, unknown in Aleppo, is everywhere apparent.

In the towns many buildings are in progress, while gardens, market and nursery, and vineyards are on the increase. No doubt the railway has something to do with all this, but not all. To the pushing Greek element, immigrants from Cyprus, Scio, Smyrna, &c., most is due. They are the principal merchants and large land-owners, and form the backbone of the country, introducing machinery and other modern improvements in cultivation, and which are eagerly appreciated and adopted by the natives.

The aptitude of the people for instruction is exemplified by the fact, that the railway is run by two Europeans only (English), viz., the manager and the engineer in charge of the locomotive department; all the workmen in the machinery and other workshops being natives, who have been trained and taught by the latter.

Aleppo, April 1891.

No. 56.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 29.)

(No. 207.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, May 22, 1891.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 148 of the 13th ultimo, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that, in accordance with permission granted to them, the officers of the "Hamidié" Turkish cavalry regiment, belonging to the 4th Army Corps, left Constantinople on the 18th instant to return to their homes.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 57.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 29.)

(No. 208.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, May 22, 1891.*

UPON the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 94 of the 25th April, I instructed Sir Alfred Sandison to question the Grand Vizier as to whether any steps had been taken towards increasing the Turkish garrisons in Kurdistan, with the object of affording better protection to the Christian population inhabiting certain districts of that part of the Empire, and, at the same time, to remind his Highness of the assurances that he had given to Mrs. Bishop and the late Mr. Clifford Lloyd.

His Highness replied that the strengthening of the garrisons, which had also been recommended by the Governor-General of Erzeroum, had already been submitted for the Imperial sanction, but that the question of the strengthening of the police force

depended to a great extent upon the views of the Governor-General, who, so far, had made no suggestion in that sense.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 58.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 29.)

(No. 210.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, May 22, 1891.*

IN continuation of my despatch No. 178 of the 5th May, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Acting Consul in Kurdistan, reporting the signature of a "Mazbata" by some Armenian inhabitants of Alashgerd, to the effect that they had no complaint, which Mr. Hampson suggests may be brought as evidence in favour of the dismissed Kaïmakam, Ahmed Bey, who continues to receive vigorous support from the Vali of Erzeroum.

I consequently caused further representations to be made to the Grand Vizier, who has assured me that there is no question of the Kaïmakam's reinstatement, his successor having been already appointed, and being on his way to take up his post.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 58.

Acting Consul Hampson to Sir W. White.

Sir, *Erzeroum, May 9, 1891.*

IN connection with my despatch of the 18th ultimo, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that, during his recent journey, the Vali induced the Armenian inhabitants of the Toprak Kalé (Alashgerd) district to sign a "Mazbata," to the effect that they had no cause of complaint. A priest, who refused to sign, was imprisoned for three days.

The value of these "Mazbata" is too well known to your Excellency for any comment on this one to be necessary. I bring it to your notice, in case it may be produced as evidence in favour of the dismissed Kaïmakam, Ahmed Bey. The vigorous support which the Vali continues to give to this well-known bad character is the chief complaint that I have to make against his Excellency.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES S. HAMPSON.

No. 59.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 29.)

(No. 215.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, May 24, 1891.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Acting Consul at Erzeroum, reporting three bad cases of murder in the vicinity of that town, the victims in each instance being Christians.

I have instructed Sir Alfred Sandison to draw the serious attention of the Grand Vizier to these outrages, and to the insecurity prevailing in the environs of Erzeroum.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 59.

Acting Consul Hampson to Sir W. White.

Sir, *Erzeroum, May 10, 1891.*

AFTER freedom from all outrages for many weeks, it is with regret that I have to bring to your Excellency's notice three bad cases of murder, the victims in each instance being Christians:—

1. Last Sunday night, 10th May, the Head of the Armenian village of Kiuprikevi, in Passon, eight hours from Erzeroum, was shot through the head while sitting in his own house. The shot appears to have been fired from the window, and death was instantaneous.

Prompt endeavours were made by the local authorities to trace the murderer, but no clue has as yet been obtained.

2. On the same day, an Armenian peasant was quietly walking across the plain near Amadan, a village two hours from here, when a mounted Turk deliberately rode over him; and, not content with knocking him down, turned his horse and trampled on him, causing injuries to which he has since succumbed in the hospital of this town.

The perpetrator of this atrocious murder is in prison.

3. On Monday morning, the bodies of two Armenians were found under a bridge on the Trebizond road near Hidja, a village three hours from here. They had, apparently, been strangled.

Until now, the authorities have not succeeded in tracing the criminals, but I understand that orders have been given to use every means to do so.

These regrettable events have revived in all their force, and even increased, the terrors of the Christian inhabitants of Erzeroum; in fact, to such a pitch has the feeling of insecurity risen, that Christians dare not go to villages within an hour or two of the town except in parties of at least four or five.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES S. HAMPSON.

No. 60.

Vice-Consul Devey to Acting Consul Hampson.—(Received at the Foreign Office, June 12.)

(No. 14.)
Sir, *Van, May 16, 1891.*

A SAVAGE assault was committed upon an Armenian of Karakenduz village, 18 miles distant, by a Kurd of the village Balmin a few weeks ago. The Armenian was summoned by the Kurd to mend an ox-cart, and on the road was terribly battered with his own tools; the Kurd then half interred the body, leaving it for dead, but fortunately shepherds discovered it, and the Armenian will, it is hoped, recover. The culprit has just been traced and seized in the Caza of Kavash, but as the "Instruction" has not yet been held, I cannot state what was the motive of the outrage.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE POLLARD DEVEY.

No. 61.

Consul Longworth to Sir W. White.—(Received at the Foreign Office, June 12.)

Sir, *Trebizond, May 23, 1891.*

IN connection with my despatch of the 28th March, I have further to report as follows:—

On the 19th instant the Austrian Lloyd's steamer "Helios" brought back the

Kurds from Constantinople in the company once more of Colonel Vehbi Bey and Lieutenant-Colonel Ismail Bey. Receiving here the usual military honours and the hospitality of the more prominent Mussulmans they left on the following day for Erzinghian, the head-quarters of the 4th Army Corps, where they are to undergo now, as well as twice a-year, a two months' course of military training.

These Kurds, it appears, have engaged themselves to furnish a contingent of from 25,000 to 30,000 horsemen, to be organized and commanded by officers of the regular army in concert with Kurdish volunteer officers of equivalent ranks, from a Corporal to a General.

Promotions in civil grades were given to the Chiefs Hadji Youssuf Pasha, Sofi Pasha, Ahmed Pasha, Fetoullah Bey, and Mirza Bey, while decorations or gifts, or both, were bestowed on the rest.

Their gaudy costumes have been abandoned for more sombre attires, and, as arms, swords and revolvers are carried without lances. Those of Bitlis, Mush, &c., wear grey tunics and trousers, topboots, and kalpaks bearing the Imperial arms. The Zazars, or Arab Kurds, have a similar dress, but of dark cloth, and instead of the kalpak a kafieh is worn fastened round the head by a broad band of camel's hair, to which is attached the Imperial arms. Those known by the name of Térékemeh of the Alashgird district are distinguished by their dark Circassian costume and badge on the kalpak, a dress which has been given them as immigrants from the Caucasus.

The second lot of Kurdish Chiefs, *en route* for Constantinople, reached Trebizond on the 21st instant. They received here the same treatment as the first batch, and left to-day by the same boat, accompanied by the same officers. They number fifty-two persons of three tribes, namely, that of Haidar Khan, Bedrkhan, and Shah Hussein, who, I am told, have already signed an agreement at Erzinghian to supply the State with thirty-two regiments of cavalry of from 500 to 600 strong.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. Z. LONGWORTH.

Inclosure in No. 61.

Memorandum by Colonel Chermside as to Auxiliary Cavalry, Kurdish Contingent.

WITH reference to Consul Longworth's despatch of the 23rd May, 1891, referred to me by your Excellency, I may here embody my recent additional notes as to the auxiliary cavalry instead of in the next Military Report.

The substance of the despatch I can verify, though the exact periods of exercise, details of instruction, and numbers of men to be raised are still in a rather elementary and theoretical stage.

The arrival here of the first batch of Kurds has been mentioned in former Reports and Memoranda. A few small groups from the Diarbekir and other districts have joined the first batch here. After a ceremony of leave-taking, presided over by Mushir Dervish Pasha, assisted by the Aleppo religious Sheikh, Abu-el-Huda, and after the reading of the "Khutbeh," the contingent embarked on Saturday, the 16th May, on the Austrian Lloyd steam-ship "Helios," and left for Trebizond.

The first contingent represented, it is said, twenty-four tribes and Septs (or tribal sub-divisions).

Hajji Yussuf Pasha received civil rank, was decorated, and presented by His Imperial Majesty with a jewelled tobacco case. He is a most dignified patriarchal old man, very hospitable, of the old school, a strict Mussulman, but of very conciliatory disposition, a man who makes use of his influence to appease or moderate tribal feuds. I was once his guest at his home at Aintob on the Northern Euphrates, between Alashgird and Molasgird.

Name.	Quality.	Tribe.	Decoration.	Rank conferred.	
Haji Yussuf Pasha ..	Head ..	Sefeken	3rd Osmanieh ..	Yes. Civil	Jewelled box.
Eyub Pasha	,, ..	Jelali and Zilanlu ..	3rd Mejidieh ..	,, ,,	Present.
Mirza Beg	,, ..	Hedemanlu ..	,, ..	,, ,,	Arab horse.
Mustafa Pasha (arrived from Diarbekir after first batch)	,, ..	Miran (S. Kurdistan)	3rd Osmanieh ..	,, ,,	
Sofi Pasha	,, ..	Hassoinanlu ..	,, ..	,, ,,	
Foth-Ullah Beg ..	A Sept ..	Husseinanlu ..	3rd Mejidieh ..	,, ,,	Present.
Mahmud (? Ahmed) Pasha	Head ..	Jerianlu	,, ..	,, ,,	A ring.
Ibrahim Beg (? Agha)..	Head of a Sept	Jerianlu	,, ..	..	
Ata Agha (? Beg) ..	Head ..	Kara - Papak Sarajlu (originally from territory now Russian)	,, ..	..	
Yussuf Agha ..	..	Husseinanlu ..	,, ..	..	
Hussein Beg ben Eyub (Pasha)	2nd Chief, i.e., hereditary heir	Zilanlu	4th Osmanieh ..	..	
Hussein Beg* ..	Head ..	Jemadanlu	,, ..	..	
Tashdan Agha ..	..	Kara-Papak ..	,, ..	..	
Ibrahim Beg ..	Head ..	Milli (near Urfa and Diarbekir)	No details.		
Mustafa Agha ..	..	From Suvarek, near Urfa and Diarbekir			

* I believe this to be the notorious Hussein Beg, of Patnotz, who figures very often in Consular despatches.

In addition to these, numerous decorations, 4th and 5th classes, of the Osmanieh and Mejidieh, were bestowed, and money gifts of 5 liras (4*l.* 10*s.* 8*d.*) to the more important Aghas, and of 3 liras (2*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.*) to retainers.

The first contingent furnished representative men of numerous tribes (some twenty-four in all), of which five are leading ones.

The Kurdish tribesmen, on embarkation, were accompanied by Mir-Alai (Colonel), Vehbi Bey, Imperial Aide-de-camp; Kaimakam (Lieutenant-Colonel), Ismail Bey, and Hassib Effendi. The "Helios" arrived at Trebizond on the 19th May, 1891, and the Kurdish contingent left next day for the head-quarters of the 4th Army Corps at Erzinghian, after dispatching a telegram of salutation to His Imperial Majesty.

On the 21st May the second contingent of Kurds, coming last from the 4th Army Corps' head-quarters at Erzinghian, reached Trebizond, embarked on the 23rd on the Austrian Lloyd steam-ship "Meden," and reached the capital on the 27th May. They were accompanied by the same officers. Consul Longworth gives the total number as 52; I have it as 53.

Tribe.	Chiefs.	Retainers.	Total.
Haidéranlu (Turkish and Persian, very widespread and influential)	3	20	23
Chikakla	7	12	19
Zeiliki	1	5	6
Jibranlu	1	2	3
Hedemanlu (also represented in first batch)	1	1	2
Total	..	..	53

These Chiefs have been received by Dervish Pasha, and are, with their retainers, quartered in barracks near Yildiz Palace; they have attended the "Selamlik," and in general are treated just as were the first batch.

Since the organization first took the form of a definite project in 1885,* the estimated numbers of the projected contingent to be raised have much varied.

At present all the Chiefs in question belong to the IVth Army Corps district.

Mahmud Pasha, the hereditary Jaf Chieftain from the VIth Army Corps district.

* Löbell's "Jahres Berichte," &c., vol. xiii, p. 327.

arrived here much earlier, but for certain reasons connected with the questions under discussion by Kaïmakam (Lieutenant-Colonel) 'Umr Bey's Commission on the Turco-Persian boundary, this part of the project is still in abeyance.[3]

The territorial project for the Hamidieh Militia Cavalry has been referred to Civil Governors-General and Governors, with orders to them to verify the statistics as to numbers of men and horses that could be furnished.

The proposed number of regiments, 60-68, has now been reduced to 45, full regiments of nominal war strength of 1,000, and three smaller regiments or corps of strength 500.

The project at the General Staff Bureau so stands now: officers of the regular forces, staff and cavalry are to be detached to these corps for instructional purposes; the troops will at the same time be under their own tribal Chiefs, who will have quasi-military or relative rank.

The exact periods of the corps being assembled for training I do not yet know. The men are to be rationed and paid while under arms.

The force is called "Hamidieh." The uniforms, as experimentally made and issued here, are a long tunic or frock of grey, and of dark cloth in cases of certain corps, of the Caucasian pattern. The head-dresses are variations of the national types; surmounted by the Imperial badge, *i.e.*, for the Kara-Papaks and Caucasians it is a "kalpak" or fur cap, with distinguishing ribbons for ranks and for tribes, white, red, &c. For other Kurds it is a fur cap or band surrounding, as does the turban, the national white felt cap, the top of which appears. For the southern and Mesopotamian Kurds, the "kufieh" with camel hair bands is worn.

As I heard some months since was probable, Yussuf Zia Pasha has been named Inspector-General of the Northern or Russian Frontier Contingent of the Hamidieh regiments.

Zia Pasha, although not a Kurd, is a native of the Kars district, and has intimate acquaintance or connection with the Kara-Papaks and the frontier Kurds; he was in charge of Kurdish levies in the war 1877-78. He was once Governor of the Sanjak of Baiburt. He has the rank (or equivalent) of Liwa.

The standards of the first two regiments have been delivered to His Imperial Majesty.

I cannot yet say whether the formation and instruction of regiments of auxiliary cavalry will be proceeded with in IVth Army Corps district at Erzinghian or elsewhere forthwith. Information on this point from Her Majesty's Consular officers will be of much interest. Although I have transmitted to them privately most of the information on the subject which I possess, your Excellency may possibly deem it well to transmit to them a copy of this Memorandum of March 1890; also Memoranda of November and December 1890, and paragraph 15; of the 19th November, 1891, paragraph 6; of the 16th January, 1891, paragraph 4; of the 28th March, 1891, and a paragraph of the 5th May, 1891, bear on this subject.

(Signed) HERBERT CHERMSIDE, *Colonel.*

Constantinople, June 6, 1891.

No. 62.

Acting Consul Hampson to Sir W. White.—(Received at the Foreign Office, June 12.)

(No. 52.)

Sir, *Erzeroum, May* 28, 1891.

I TRUST your Excellency will not consider it presumptuous of me, after my short residence in Erzeroum, to submit in a few words the views which I have formed as to the position of the Christian subjects of the Sultan in these districts.

Naturally, such views cannot pretend to any originality, but are formed on the opinions of those in a position to judge, confirmed, as far as possible, by my own observations.

By studying former Reports in the archives of the Consulate, and comparing them with what I have learnt of the actual condition of these districts, I am led to the conclusion that there has undoubtedly been a considerable improvement in the general administration during the last few years; that Ottoman officials, at any rate at Erzeroum, the centre of the local government, show a more thorough appreciation of

[3] *Vide* former Memoranda and Reports.

the necessities and difficulties of the country and population, with a more real desire and determination to maintain order, and place things on a better footing.

But much still remains to be desired, and it must not be forgotten that, whatever progress may have been made on the part of the local government, an advance of at least equal dimension has taken place in the ideas of the Christian population. The Armenians have learnt to realize more fully what is their position compared with that of subjects in more civilized countries; discontent has spread with the growth of this knowledge, and, as a consequence, the demands and ideas of the Christian subjects of His Imperial Majesty, just and moderate enough in most cases, have outstripped the slow changes towards their accomplishment which can be noticed in the acts of the Government.

Lately, especially during the last year, the great drag on the progress of reform has been the idea, deeply rooted apparently in the mind of the Turkish Government, that the seeds, at least, of a revolution, not to say an active rebellion, exist among the Armenians. The consequence has been a policy of harassing suspicion, which has greatly increased the sullen discontent of the Christians.

As a result of this policy, the Armenians have become so sullen and discontented, and, at the same time, are in such a state of abject terror, that they apparently seek to find causes of complaint in every act of the authorities, good or bad. Absurd and totally unfounded stories of ill-treatment are put about, and they actually seem now to be doing everything which they can, in an underhand way, to provoke the Turks.

The idea of any wish or plan of rebellion among the Armenians in these parts is, to the best of my belief, utterly groundless, and even if such a wish or design does exist among a few restless and discontented spirits, fostered by the machinations of political agitators, who are careful themselves to remain at a safe distance, the power of carrying such a design into execution is entirely wanting. Armenians in this district are a most peaceable people, perpetually squabbling among themselves, and, for that reason, the less likely to unite for any common design of rebellion. They have neither arms nor leaders, and the idea of any general rising is laughed at by all who know the real state of the country. In spite of this, however, the Turkish authorities insist on acting as if they believed that an insurrection was imminent, and, by so doing, are promoting, if it were possible, the realization of what they pretend to dread.

In my opinion, the Armenians would be a perfectly contented, hard-working, and profitable part of the subjects of the Sultan, provided that they were protected against the Kurds; given a fair share in the local administration of those districts where they form a large proportion of the inhabitants; and, what would follow as a natural consequence, treated, civilly and personally, on an equal footing with their Mahommedan neighbours.

To repeat what has been so often said, it is not laws but men who are wanting. The existing laws, if strictly administered, would be, in general, perfectly satisfactory. What is wanted are upright, energetic, and impartial officers, especially as Kaïmakams, Mutessarifs, and Mudirs in the provinces. At the same time, such officers must have at their command a sufficient force of soldiers or armed police to enable them to resist and punish the outrages of lawless Kurds by force, if necessary. At present, in the majority of cases, such outrages are committed with perfect impunity.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CHARLES S. HAMPSON.

No. 63.

Acting Consul Hampson to Sir W. White.—(Received at the Foreign Office, June 12.)

(No. 54.)

Sir, *Erzeroum, May* 30, 1891.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 46 of the 2nd May, I have now the honour to forward to your Excellency copy, in duplicate, of a further Confidential despatch received from Acting Vice-Consul Boyajian regarding the great uneasiness at present existing in the Kharput Vilayet.

As usual in the summer season, Mr. Boyajian will shortly proceed to Kharput himself, when he will be able to report personally on the state of that district.

Here, owing to the energy and justice of our Vali, the uneasiness is, I hope, decreasing, though some weeks of quietness are still necessary in order to at all restore

confidence. Dangerous elements of irritation on the side of the Moslem population and of panic and discontent on that of the Christians are still evident; and with such elements, very little is required to produce an explosion.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES S. HAMPSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 63.

Acting Vice-Consul Boyajian to Acting Consul Hampson.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Diarbekir, May 12, 1891.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, for your information, copy of a Confidential letter received from the Rev. Dr. Barnum, one of the American missionaries of Kharput.

In perusing it, you will undoubtedly gather that the present state of things in the Kharput Vilayet (with the exception of Dersim, which is always disturbed) is not what it was formerly.

I beg to call your particular attention to the third paragraph of the inclosure, in which you will observe that there are causes for fearing the approach of serious troubles in the above-mentioned province. I learn from other reliable sources also that Turks, and even the Government, look upon the Christians there with great distrust, and that the peacefully inclined Armenians are in a state of constant apprehension and misgiving, fearing that a trifling affair may lead to serious complications.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS BOYAJIAN.

Inclosure 2 in No. 63.

The Rev. Dr. Barnum to Acting Vice-Consul Boyajian.

(Confidential.) *April 28, 1891.*

OUR Vali was summoned to Malatia a few days ago. The Aghja Dagh Kurds had made raid upon the prison of that caza and released the prisoners—how many I do not know—and an Armenian Catholic, member of the Administration Council of Malatia, had been murdered. He was shot, through the window of his own house, about 2 o'clock in the evening. His name, I believe, is Krikor Effendi. Two Armenians are under arrest for the crime, but whether with or without evidence I do not know. The Mutessariff, a very inefficient man, has gone to Constantinople on leave, and Rushid Effendi of this place is Vakil.

2. I forgot to write to you that Yousuf Effendi, the Commissioner of Police in Arabkir, was murdered in Arabkir one night, three or four weeks ago, as he was returning alone from a feast. It was a little before midnight. He received some fifteen stabs. Three Armenians are in prison here as the murderers, but the general sentiment among Christians seems to be that the deed was performed by Turks who had threatened him. It is said that fearing danger from the Turks he had asked and received permission from the Vali to come to Kharput, but the Kaimakam requested him to wait a little, and so he lost his life; of course, it is impossible to tell among so many reports what is true.

3. The spring has come, and as yet the country is quiet; I hear, on all sides, that the Turks are unusually insolent. The tension between the Turks and Christians seems to be pretty severe. In some places, like Itchmé and Arabkir, it seems to be a sort of armistice; both parties are armed, but neither wishes to break the peace. I hear, from Arabkir direct, that the Bishop's preaching is mostly political. The other day his text was the healing of the paralytic, who was let down through the roof before the Saviour. This was like the Armenian nation, who are to be borne to freedom by the nations of Europe, &c. The Vali told me, the last time I saw him, that he might, if he chose, summarily send the Bishop to Constantinople, but I told him it would be quite likely to provoke a riot; if the Patriarch were to recall him, it would be a very wise precautionary measure. I learn that Armenians in Arabkir have a Russian Armenian teacher, who is active in political matters. It will be a great mercy if the season passes without an outbreak anywhere, for the Turks are in just the sensitive condition which would make it very difficult to restrain them.

4. I see by the Mezró paper (official) just received, that the Vali went to Aghja Dagh with soldiers, surrounding the village from which the breakers of the prison had come. The men who led in this affair, along with several of the escaped prisoners, were arrested, one killed and three wounded; no casualty among the soldiers.

No. 64.

Acting Consul Hampson to Sir W. White.—(Received at the Foreign Office, June 26.)

(No. 55.)
Sir, *Erzeroum, June 6, 1891.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Excellency copy, in duplicate, of Vice-Consul Devey's despatch No. 15.

The absurd stories which he now contradicts were very prevalent here about two months ago, but I did not consider them worth mentioning to your Excellency. Stories equally absurd are constantly spread by the Armenians in the bazaar in the most authoritative manner, and, unfortunately, are accepted as true by a large majority.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES S. HAMPSON.

Inclosure in No. 64.

Vice-Consul Devey to Acting Consul Hampson.

Sir, *Van, May 25, 1891.*

AN Armenian revolutionary Gazette, the "Henchag," published in London, makes in its issue for last month statements, the substance of which is as follows:—

"From the districts disquieting and distressing news arrives anew, among which events at Van occupy a prominent place. According to information derived from divers trustworthy sources, occurrences there are becoming more and more serious. Three weeks ago the Vali here (*i.e.*, at Van) was having Armenian houses searched for the seizure of arms. These proceedings greatly incensed our compatriots, who resolved to resist by force. Thereupon the British Consul addressed the Vali, urging him to rescind the orders given, but the Vali proved obdurate, and, during the conversation, a dispute arose, in which the angry Governor twice struck the Consul, and the latter retaliated. The Consul withdrew in extreme indignation, and forthwith hauling down the flag of the Consulate telegraphed the state of the case to London and to Constantinople. These incidents yet further provoked the Armenians of Van, and they went in a great crowd to the Russian Consulate with an Address, desiring to join the Orthodox Church. From other sources we learn that, during the above occurrences, blood was freely shed, and eighty or ninety persons killed. In short, the state of affairs at Van is extremely serious; there is discord and complaint and change of faith. The Sultan, learning of these troubles at Van, the reverse of his hopes, was greatly concerned, and, in lack of all resources, addressed himself to our Patriarchate. With a view to pacification, for, indeed, numerous complaints have reached the Patriarchate, the Patriarchal Council decided to send to Van the Vartabed Ayvazian Hovsep as Vicar, but this magnate did not assent. Possibly he has not forgotten the sting of the blow in Magnesia."

It would have been needless to observe that the above assertions are in part gross misrepresentations, and as to the rest absolutely false and groundless; but that I believe some such reports have been circulated in Persia, and have gained credence among Armenians there. Her Majesty's Consul-General at Tabreez might be consulted as to the advisability of having them refuted.

The affairs referred to in the above extract from the "Henchag" have been fully described in letters addressed to the Kurdistan Consulate between December and March last. But I may be allowed to state that upon no occasion has there been any display of anger or irritation between his Excellency the Vali and myself, nor has any blood been shed at Van; and, lastly, party strife among the Armenians appears to be, if anything, abating, whilst no Armenian has abandoned his creed, or is likely to do so.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE POLLARD DEVEY.

No. 65.

Vice-Consul Devey to Acting Consul Hampson.—(Received at the Foreign Office, June 26.)

(No. 16.)
Sir,

Van, May 30, 1891.

A FATAL affray occurred a week ago between tobacco contrabandists and Circassian surveillants of the Public Debt Administration at the north-east end of the lake near Bergri.

A guard had been set to seize an expected consignment of contraband salt, and Kolat Bey, with companions not far off, was watching the road by night, when a train of eight Kurds from Molazgerd, mounted, and mostly (if not all) armed with Berdan rifles, descended from the hills with six laden horses. On being challenged by the Circassian, a Kurd at once attacked him with a sword, and was shot dead; two more Kurds were killed before Kolat Bey fell, mortally wounded. The Kurds then fled, leaving a large quantity of tobacco in the hands of the Government agents. It is said that a Kurdish woman was wounded and a child killed during the fight in the dark, and there are three or four men wounded.

I notice this combat as being one of the most serious in this neighbourhood for many years past. The only other remark I have to offer is, that the few Circassians settled on the north side of the lake merit their local reputation for hardihood and courage, and are ready to fight and be killed in the execution of their duty, whether employed as gendarmes or agents of the different Customs Departments. But herein it is not meant to convey that their fellows as a general rule are lacking in a strong sense of duty and in devotion.

It is a wise and proper regulation which prohibits "Koljis" from being the first to fire under circumstances such as the above, and a searching inquiry is always held to ascertain that this has been the case.

Kolat Bey was badly wounded a few years ago in a conflict with Laz contrabandists near Erzeroum.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE POLLARD DEVEY.

No. 66.

Acting Consul Hampson to Sir W. White.—(Received at the Foreign Office, June 26.)

(No. 60.)
Sir,

Erzeroum, June 10, 1891.

IT is with regret that I have to bring to your Excellency's notice several fresh cases of murderous attacks and outrages on Armenians in this neighbourhood.

On Monday morning, the 8th June, the body of a Protestant Armenian was brought into the town. He was found shot through the heart on the Kars road, within a mile of the Kars Gate of Erzeroum. It appears that he was on his way here from Khinis. No clue to the murderer, or to the reason of the murder, have yet been obtained. The Vali has promised to make the strictest investigation into the matter.

Four workmen belonging to the service of the Public Debt were sent a week ago on business to a spot within two hours of the town. Three of them were Christians, one a Mussulman. They were met by a party of seven Kurds, who stripped the Christians of everything they had, giving them their own rags in exchange for their clothes. It is said that it was only the representations of their Mussulman companion which saved them from being murdered.

At Hach-Keui, in the district of Terjan, five hours distant from here, about fifteen days ago a party of eight Kurds from Kozichan attacked four Armenian brothers who were working in the fields near the village, with the object of carrying off the cattle. The Armenians, however, defended their property, and to such purpose that the Kurds were forced to retire, leaving four of their number, one severely, and the others slightly, wounded in the hands of their opponents. The latter also suffered heavily, one of the brothers being killed and another severely wounded in the fight.

The remaining Kurds, furious at their defeat, collected a large number of their tribe; made a raid on Khach-Keui, carried off all the property on which they could

lay their hands, and rescued the three of their comrades who had been slightly wounded. They were obliged to leave the one who was severely wounded to the Armenians, by whom he has been handed over to the Kaïmakam of Mama-Khatun.

From the plain of Erzeroum, also, come many stories of ill-treatment of Christians. At Setaouk some Mussulmans forcibly entered the house of an Armenian, with the design of outraging his daughter. Failing in this they violated his wife.

At Umudum, the state of things seems to be very bad. The Christian Mudid was grossly insulted by some low Mussulmans a few days ago.

Both these last cases have been referred to the authorities at Ilidja.

Religious and race animosity are very strong now; and, though I have every confidence in the good intentions of the Vali, it will require all his energy and decision to prevent a serious outbreak.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES S. HAMPSON.

No. 67.

Acting Consul Hampson to Sir W. White.—(Received at the Foreign Office, June 26.)

(No. 61.)
Sir,

Erzeroum, June 10, 1891.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that I yesterday saw the Vali, and had a long conversation with him on the state of the country. I called his attention to the events which I have noticed in my immediately preceding despatch, and especially to the murder of an Armenian close to the town, pointing out how important it was that such a crime should not be allowed to escape punishment.

His Excellency, while admitting that regrettable incidents had happened in several places during the last fortnight, claimed that, on the whole, this district had been remarkably quiet during the spring, which is true. With regard to the murder, while assuring me that every means should be employed to trace and punish the criminal, he spoke strongly of the folly of those who persist in roaming about at night in a country which is admittedly not perfectly tranquil.

I am going to-day to Portoum, for a few days, for change of air. I shall endeavour to learn personally the state of those villages through which I pass.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES S. HAMPSON.

No. 68.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir W. White.

(No. 141.)
Sir,

Foreign Office, July 1, 1891.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 257 of the 22nd instant, transmitting copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Acting Consul at Erzeroum, relative to the murderous attacks which have been made on Armenians, and I have to request your Excellency to inform Mr. Hampson that I approve the language he held on the subject to the Vali of Erzeroum, as reported by him to your Excellency.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 69.

Vice-Consul Boyadjian to Acting Consul Hampson.—(Received at the Foreign Office, July 10.)

(No. 30.)
Sir,

Diarbekir, June 8, 1891.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that the Tayan Kurds, one of the nomad tribes of the Djezîré district, have, in consequence of an old dispute between their two Chiefs, fallen lately upon each other, and in a bloody affray about twenty of their number were killed and thirty or forty wounded.

The Arabs are again giving a good deal of trouble to the inhabitants of the districts of the Mardin Sandjak bordering on the desert, and causing anxiety to the Local Government. Taking advantage of the absence of the soldiers, generally stationed in those localities at the spring season for protecting the country against incursions, the Shammar Arabs have come in large numbers, are feeding their herds, and, to the great annoyance of the people, damaging the cultivation, and thus doing much mischief.

The Governor-General, his Excellency Hadji Hassan Bey, who is in Djeziré now, applied for one or two detachments of cavalry soldiers, but the Commander-in-chief of 4th Corps d'Armée declined to accede to this request, stating that he could not send them without previously receiving the command of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan. And I have been just informed that the necessary orders have been given.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS BOYADJIAN.

No. 70.

Vice-Consul Devey to Acting Consul Hampson.—(Received at the Foreign Office, July 10.)

(No. 19.)
Sir, *Van, June 15, 1891.*

A ROMAN Catholic priest was murdered at the village of Savra, near Salmas, in Persia, last winter, to which reference was made in my despatch No. 2 of the 14th January.

On the 15th May an Armenian priest and his servant were murdered in revenge in the same neighbourhood. The latter, named Mesrop, was "Vartabed" at the Gregorian Monastery, St. Husginvortin (son of Husgin, a nephew of St. Gregory the Illuminator), in Bergri, of this vilayet; he had gone into Persia to visit some of his flock who have churches in their villages there. Doubtless, full details as to this crime will be known to Her Majesty's Consul-General at Tabreez.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE POLLARD DEVEY.

No. 71.

Mr. Hagopian to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 14.)

My Lord, 25, *Chesilton Road, Fulham, London, July 11, 1891.*

THE auspicious presence of the German Emperor in London impels me to remind your Lordship of the Treaty of Berlin and of our unhappy Armenia.

No one could value more than my brethren in Armenia the constant vigilance exercised by Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople and Her Majesty's Consuls in bringing before the notice of the Sublime Porte individual cases of wrong-doing and oppression in Armenia or elsewhere, of which the protracted trial and acquittal and subsequent exile of Moussa Bey is a striking example. But however useful this may have been in certain respects, and especially as an object lesson, it is not the introduction and execution of the reforms promised under the Treaty of Berlin; it is not the supervision either by one or more of the Signatory Powers of the manner of this execution; it is not justice in the Courts, freedom from arbitrary conduct in officials, or protection from the Kurds and Circassians; it is not immunity from ill-treatment by tax-gatherers, or the full admission of the principle that the civil power must, under all circumstances, give adequate protection for the life, property, and honour of its subjects in return for the taxes which it levies. To reform the administration of the whole of the Ottoman Empire is beyond the capacity of its present rulers, unassisted as they are by the freely expressed voice of public opinion, and, besides, no Treaty exists for the purpose, but there is a Treaty in favour of the Armenians. I would therefore entreat your Lordship to make the presence of the Emperor of Germany and of the principal advisers of His Majesty in this country available for some practical good in Armenia.

I have taken the liberty of memorializing the German Emperor on this subject, and there is no reason why Germany and the other parties to Triple Alliance should not second your Lordship's endeavours in our favour.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. HAGOPIAN.

No. 72.

Foreign Office to Mr. Hagopian.

Sir, *Foreign Office, July 17, 1891.*

I AM directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 11th instant, calling attention to the grievances of the Armenian subjects of the Sultan.

I am, &c.
(Signed) P. CURRIE.

No. 73.

Mr. Fane to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 24.)

(No. 295.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July 20, 1891.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which has been addressed by the Acting Vice-Consul Boyadjian to Acting Consul Hampson, reporting a severe sentence passed by the local Court on certain Armenians at Palu.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND FANE.

Inclosure in No. 73.

Vice-Consul Boyadjian to Acting Consul Hampson.

Sir, *Kharput, June 26, 1891.*

I HAVE the honour to submit for your information the following case, in which several Armenians, who were lately sentenced by the Criminal Court at Arghani Maden to seven years' imprisonment, are involved.

It appears that about six months ago cases of burglary occurred in certain quarters of Palu inhabited by the Armenians of the place, and in order to give alarm and frighten away the thieves, guns, as was their custom under like circumstances, were fired for several nights by the tenants of the houses in the quarter above-mentioned; one night, however, they fired without intermission several hundred times. The report of firing and the tumult caused by it alarmed the Kaïmakam, and he thought something was going wrong in the town, so, accompanied by several gendarmes, he hastened to the spot, where he found a large number of Armenians, armed and in an excited state, assembled in the streets, whereupon he caused the arrest of seventeen of them as ringleaders and lodged them in prison, notwithstanding their protestations of innocency and statement of the cause of their excitement. The Kaïmakam telegraphed to the Governor-General of Diarbekir, stating that the Armenians in Palu were attempting to rise against the Government. The Vali, as a matter of course, communicated this to the Porte, at the same time instructing the Governor of Arghani Maden to proceed at once to Palu for an investigation of the affair: the result of this inquiry was the removal of the accused to Maden, where they were put upon their trial after being detained in the prison there about five months; nine of the prisoners were acquitted and the rest convicted of sedition and sentenced to seven years' imprisonment. I am not yet, however, in a position to state whether this means a simple detention, or if they are condemned to penal servitude.

The trial took place in open Court, and there were, either out of interest or curiosity, a large number of people present, and I am informed from different sources that the evidence produced by the Public Prosecutor proved nothing of a treasonable nature against the accused, except the senseless act of firing guns and their shouting, when arrested, that if the Government was unable to protect their persons and property they would know how to do it for themselves. This was construed as a seditious declaration, inciting the Armenians to rise against the Government.

I must not omit to state that the condemned appealed at once to the Court of Cassation for a reversion of this severe Judgment, and at the same time forwarded a telegraphic Petition to the Sultan, praying for his Imperial clemency. It is to be hoped that by the command of His Imperial Majesty, whose solicitude for seeing justice done to his subjects is so well known, the above-mentioned Court will take the matter in hand, and do justice to the condemned by quashing this most harsh and

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undeserved sentence, as I am told some of the condemned had nothing to do with the affair, and were found in the street only as spectators.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS BOYADJIAN.

No. 74.

Mr. Fane to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 24.)

(No. 297.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July 20, 1891.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch addressed by Mr. Vice-Consul Devey to Her Majesty's Acting Consul at Erzeroum respecting the advantage of steam navigation for Lake Van.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND FANE.

Inclosure in No. 74.

Vice-Consul Devey to Acting Consul Hampson.

Sir, *Van, June 24, 1891.*

SO much has been said on various occasions by my predecessors as to the self-evident advantages of having steam communications upon Lake Van, that it seems hardly necessary to refer to the subject once again. But I believe fresh proposals with this view have once more been laid before the Porte.

If I am not mistaken, a Company of Van merchants was about to be formed some few years ago with a capital of 10,000*l.* for this purpose, but the project lapsed. The Local Government have also more than once entertained some such idea. A Russian Company, whether of the Caspian or the Volga navigation, made propositions to undertake steam traffic on Lake Van, but these were also rejected. In 1887 some Ottoman navy officers carefully inspected the lake, and found its conditions very favourable, and were also able to state that the necessary jetties and harbours would be provided for at small expense. After that, if a mere rumour may be trusted, a boiler and the machinery fittings, which it would be impossible to have made at Van, were got ready at the capital, and at the last moment their dispatch was countermanded by the Central Government.

One steam-ship of, say, 500 or 600 tons burthen, supplemented by two small but powerful tugs, would be ample provision for present needs, and for a very considerable time to come. The cargoes at present carried by native sailing-vessels (upon which I once sent a short Memorandum to Colonel Chermside) consist of grain, wood, charcoal, raw cotton, building stones, passengers, and more rarely the weightier articles of import of European manufacture. Freight from Arjish to Van is 1*d.* per 16½ lbs. They take their chance of a wetting *en route* or of a delay, which may be of from five to twenty days' duration, through stress of weather. A winter never passes without two or three vessels shipwrecked or capsized, and generally four or five lives lost.

There can be no hesitation as to the choice of ports to be fixed on, viz., Van and Tadvan; places of call would be Arjish, Adeljivaz, and Akhlat on the north, Surp and Mokhrapert on the south. There are several places of shelter if necessary besides these.

As to the commercial advantages, it is hardly necessary to state that all the goods brought to Van by horse and ox cart would be saved a considerable land journey.

Distances are—

	Hours.
Erzeroum to Van	72
Erzeroum to Arjish	64
Erzeroum to Tadvan	42, or 48 if by Musk
Bitlis to Tadvan	4

The undertaking would most undoubtedly be highly profitable. Besides this, the mails would gain, according to their destination, more or less in time, and the transport of troops might be facilitated. It is quite possible that a pilgrim route from Persia for Bagdad and Kerbela by way of Mush and Diarbekir might grow up.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE POLLARD DEVEY.

No. 75.

Mr. Fane to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 24.)

(No. 298.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July 20, 1891.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship copy of a despatch which has been addressed by Mr. Vice-Consul Devey to Her Majesty's Acting Consul at Erzeroum respecting certain lawless acts in the Vilayet of Van.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND FANE.

Inclosure in No. 75.

Vice-Consul Devey to Acting Consul Hampson.

Sir, *Van, June 22, 1891.*

HIS Excellency the Vali started four weeks ago on a tour in the districts, and, passing by Archag Nahiyé, spent a week or so at Bergri, and is now at the caza town of Arjish, where the presence of the Governor-General is producing good of manifold description. I will mention one example only. In the chief town Agans, where the Armenians are a small minority, and mostly hold their few shops under Moslem landlords, they lately decided to build a market containing upwards of eighty shops with assistance from Van merchants. Local opposition was strongly aroused, and every kind of obstacle presented in defence of private interests, but this unjustifiable resistance, and any suspicion of violence or intimidation *in posse*, has been entirely desisted from since his Excellency's arrival, and the market-place is making rapid and satisfactory progress. Frequent petty thefts, especially of two, three, or five oxen, are occurring, but no such case is suffered to pass unheeded.

Though the tribesmen are now beginning to taste their summer joys, no special incidents of robbery or outrage have reached my ears, except that three days ago the Dragoman of my Russian colleague, attended by a zaptieh and a cavass, who was going to meet M. Griaznof at Igdir, on the latter's return from a visit to Tiflis, was robbed on the Abagha Mountains by a party of eight Kurds, and a horse belonging to the Consul wounded: probably resistance was offered. No traveller should venture to cross such a desert and ill-famed border district as Abagha in the summer months without having taken adequate measures to insure his safety.

The robbery occurred near a spot known as Shamayan Tash, which is situated within the Persian border midway between the village of the Mudir of Abagha and Bayazid town, for the direct road crosses and recrosses the frontier.

Once when I was making this journey in the month of August, the zaptiehs and guides with my party, on the plea of danger, conducted us round the Adiamanzi and Haideranli "Yailas" in safety, losing a day or more in time.

Two other outrages recently took place in Persia not far from the border. In the one case a party of three Circassians from Youzgat had gone to buy mules in Persia; they were maltreated and plundered in broad daylight at the large village Bihik, despite the remonstrances of the local Sheikh or Mollah. Value to the amount of £T. 2,000 is said to have been taken from them, but, fortunately, no blood was spilt, as at first believed. As representations have been made to the Porte, and pressure put upon the Urumiah authorities, it is expected that complete restoration will soon be made.

The other affair, of which I have scant information, is the robbery of a Russian courier of mail-bags and considerable value. The Erivan Government at once addressed such strong remonstrances to Temir Khan, of Maku, that the robber Agha, at the head of some 200 clansmen, I believe, made off for the wild and difficult heights of Mount Ararat, and has been there followed and surrounded in force by the Maku Governor; probably there will next be complications with the Bayazid Government.

In Gevar Caza, I hear a serious encounter took place between outlaws and the gendarmerie. Dervish Bey, the Bashkaleh "Tabour-Aghassi," a capable and energetic officer, whose services have just been rewarded with a decoration, came upon a band of robbers, and the infamous Abdurrahman, of Gevar Plain, was killed with, perhaps, four or five of his companions. Special attention has lately been paid to the proper patrolling of the Persian frontier cazas.

Melik Artin, an Armenian of Uran's village, in Garchigan, was murdered atrociously by Kurds of Murad Bey a fortnight ago. I believe the crime came to pass through an incident of settlement of Kurds on land belonging to or claimed by the village. On the 17th instant I mentioned to the Vali that the murderers had not yet been taken, and his Excellency at once gave fresh telegraphic instructions for the pursuit.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE POLLARD DEVEY.

No. 76.

Consul Jago to Sir W. White.—(Received at the Foreign Office, August 7.)

(No. 16.)
Sir,

Aleppo, July 9, 1891.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that for some months past bad blood has existed at Aintab between the lower orders of Moslems and Armenians arising out of petty assaults and quarrels, culminating about eighteen days ago in a conflict between them in which two Armenians were wounded. The friends of the latter, having, as they assert, vainly endeavoured to move the authorities to arrest the culprits, entered by force a Moslem house, arrested them, and delivered them over to the authorities.

This proceeding only made matters worse, and exasperated the Moslems to a degree that the Chief of the Aleppo Gendarmerie was dispatched to Aintab with a force of zaptiehs, and numerous arrests were made of both Moslems and Armenians, and matters seem now to have calmed down. The Armenians, however, complain that the authorities seek to give a political complexion to these events, and in consequence harass and imprison them without cause.

A gentleman in whose judgment I have confidence writes me from Aintab under date of the 2nd instant as follows: "The political situation up here is bad. Early in the spring a small conflict took place between some Moslems and some Armenians who were celebrating Easter, and the Moslems were beaten. Since that time matters have been growing steadily worse, until now there is really serious danger. The Government is, however, awake, and especially the conduct of the big Moslem Aghas has been worthy of all praise. Two or three weeks ago they probably prevented a massacre by their firmness. The great danger now is that the Government will accept false witness against the Christians. One prominent Christian is in prison now on the charge of having incited another Christian to curse some Moslems while at prayer in a mosque. The charge is probably utterly without foundation. The situation seems, however, to be better than it was two days ago.

"There is, however, much lawlessness in the city."

Having read this letter to the Governor-General on the 4th instant, he informed me that the Chief of the Gendarmerie had reported that matters were now quiet.

The preliminaries of the trial of the forty-four Armenians belonging to Zeitoun implicated in the disturbances of last autumn began here on the 3rd instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. S. JAGO.

No. 77.

Consul Jago to Sir W. White.—(Received at the Foreign Office, August 7.)

(No. 18.)
Sir,

Aleppo, July 15, 1891.

REFERRING to my despatch No. 16 of the 9th instant, reporting disturbances at Aintab, I have the honour to state that matters appear to be quieting down there. My correspondent, writing from Aintab under date of the 9th instant, says: "We are better off this week than last week, and the danger of any general conflict between Moslem and Christian is probably past. They are, however, bringing down a few of the high heads among the Christians. One has been arrested on a charge resembling treason, and probably there is some ground for it. Two others have been arrested on, so to speak, religious grounds; but I must believe that the charges are wholly false,

and entertained by the Government either with the hope of thereby propitiating the Moslems, or with the hope of profit. What the end will be for these men I do not know. But the general bad feeling has passed, I think, to a great extent."

The Christians alluded to are Armenians, who form the vast bulk of the Christian population of Aintab.

The trial of the forty-four Armenians of Zeitoun for sedition, attempted rebellion, &c., begins here on the 1st August.

Judging from all I can see and hear, there seems no doubt that the present restlessness of the Armenians in the Vilayet of Aleppo to Turkish rule, showing itself in speech and petty acts of so-called rebellion serving no other purpose than to exaggerate the fears and exasperate their rulers, is due to several concurrent causes, such as the spread of local education among them, largely aided by the American missionaries, the influences wrought upon them by correspondence with their numerous countrymen who have settled in Europe and America, and, lastly, the teaching of agents of the so-called Secret Committees.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. S. JAGO.

No. 78.

Mr. Hampson to Sir W. White.—(Received at the Foreign Office, August 7.)

(No. 70.)
Sir,

Erzeroum, July 18, 1891.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Excellency copy in duplicate of Vice-Consul Devey's despatch of the 4th July, giving further details as to the robbery of the Dragoman of the Russian Consulate, and narrating various other crimes and disorders in that district.

It is with satisfaction that I am able to state that in this neighbourhood all is, in general, quiet. Cases of cattle-raiding and robbery occur here and there, but they are isolated, and of no general import. The worst case brought to my notice has been the murder of an Armenian by Hassananli Kurds at Gopal in Khanous. The authorities are showing considerable energy in all cases of crime, and several of the offenders in robberies and outrages have been brought to justice. In short, with the exception of the Alashgerd district, the accounts from this vilayet are satisfactory. Even from the district named no specific cases of disorder or crime have reached my ears, though the general account is disquieting.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES S. HAMPSON.

Inclosure in No. 78.

Vice-Consul Devey to Mr. Hampson.

Sir,

Van, July 4, 1891.

IN my despatch of the 22nd ultimo a murder in Garchigan Caza was mentioned; a deputation of the villagers came from Urans to Van to make complaint of this outrage, and, following his Excellency the Vali to Arjish, there received personal assurances as to the measures taken for their protection; meantime, the Chief Commissary of Police had been sent with the necessary force to make inquiry and to seize the criminals wherever they should be found.

With respect to the robbery of the Russian Dragoman, Vartikis Effendi, in Abagha, in the first place the offence was committed upon Turkish territory, at the borders of the Bayazid Sandjak, by Kurds, whose names are known, of the Adiamanli tribe (a branch numbering 300 tents of the Haideranli Ashiret), and the Alai Beg with twenty of the gendarmerie was dispatched forthwith from Van to investigate the affair. This officer succeeded in tracing the stolen property and the offenders, but now Mirza Agha of the Haideranli (just raised to the rank of Pasha), after constructively avowing that he could produce both if he chose, with intent to shake off all responsibility, has, I believe, allowed the culprits to seek shelter secretly with the Jollali round about Bayazid. The Dragoman was escorted by two zaptiehs, and had two or three servants with him, but the party was possibly struggling, and, on being attacked, one zaptieh,

took to flight. After a considerable fusillade the Kurds took the remaining zaptieh prisoner, and also seized the baggage-horse, and another which was wounded, but the rest of the party had escaped and reached the town of Bayazid in safety. It is necessary to state that the attack was simply a case of brigandage, the Kurds hoping to possess themselves of money and valuables, and perhaps a weapon or two; and the Dragoman, who had passed the previous night at a "Yaila" tent, states that the Kurds there, who were examining his property ominously, and fingering the guns of his companions, probably meditated theft. Several absurd stories have since been put in circulation: one is that the robbery was motived by revenge, because several years ago a Russian courier, or the baggage of the then Consul, M. Kamsaragan, had been robbed, and a certain Tahir punished therefor. And later also it has been given out that an attack was being purposely prepared against the person of the Russian Consul, and I believe M. Griaznof has allowed himself to be influenced by such rumours.

At Akhlat a serious fray lately broke out between Turks and Circassians of the caza, in which several persons were killed or wounded; Raouf Pasha, Vali of Bitlis, has gone to re-establish order.

Mar Shimun, the Nestorian Patriarch, lately complained of violence done in Berwari again, the home of the late Tatar Khan Bey, and measures are taken to protect the Rayahs. Amadiyeh Caza is now to be made over to the Mosul Vilayet as formerly, which is distinctly a better arrangement, geographically and ethnologically, and will relieve the Van authorities of constant troubles, which are difficult to be contended with at such a distance.

The Heriki tribe have been committing fresh misdeeds of a serious nature, probably murder and robbery with violence, on the borders of the Mosul Vilayet. The offenders took shelter with their kinsmen in Shemdinan, and the Hekkiari Mutessarif has just gone to that caza to secure them.

I regret to have to report a bad murder of an Armenian, Melik (Melkon), son of Kriker, who was lately nominated a member of the Idaré Council of Mukus Caza. Nouri Bey, son of Abdal Bey, and agent of the Tobacco Régie at Mukus, is the offender, who, with blackened face, shot Melik dead on the road, out of mere spite. I give the name confidentially, as it is not yet generally known, nor desirable that it should be, for Nouri Bey is naturally in hiding. In Mukus Caza there are four Beys, brothers, viz., Abdal, Suleiman, Sheiko, and Sheref, grand-nephews of Khan Mahmud, who was in revolt and did so much mischief forty years or more ago, upon the introduction of the "Tanzimat." These four were banished as children to Rhodes, but allowed to return home after five years, since which time (thirty-five years), partly by their own position and influence, and partly shielded by the religious protection of the "Khalifa" Fehmi (a Sheikh related to Sheikh Obeydullah, confined after the latter's revolt in 1880 to Mukus Caza, and pensioned, I believe), and partly left to their own devices by representations of the Van Government, too timid or too apathetic to interfere, they have committed so many shameful deeds that the sufferers have begun to give up all hope of justice or protection. All these things have been chronicled by Captain Clayton in confidential Reports ten years ago. Hence last summer also four or five Armenians of Mukus came to Van to declare they must either become Moslem or could no longer exist in their homes, but they were pacified. If this last murder be not promptly avenged, a bad effect will be produced upon the Armenians, so exceptional were the circumstances, and so much viciousness and defiance of all law and authority displayed in its committal. It is full time the Government set to work to crush the noxious influence of this family; Sheiko Bey is the most dangerous, as his secret villanies and participation therein are cloaked, but Suleiman Bey is the most brutal and violent openly. Abdal Bey, some fifteen or twenty years ago, suffered six years' imprisonment at Van for the murder of an Armenian named Neto.

In Arjish Caza one or two village quarrels, resulting fatally, took place recently, but there is nothing of particular importance save the case of Kuli Khan, of Hasanaydor village, in Zilan-Dereh. So far as I can understand, this Bey was to receive a sum of money from a Kurd of the neighbouring village, Chakir Bey, and, in default of payment, three or four months ago seized some of the latter's cattle. His adversary retaliated with similar theft. Kuli Khan then went to Chakir Bey, and in disputing slew his man, who was of some dignity as belonging to the "Torun," and a brother of Kuli Khan's killed another Kurd, after which, Kuli Khan having withdrawn and placed himself under the protection of Mirza Aga (now Pasha), of the Adiamanli tribe, the sufferers and their friends took advantage of his absence to loot much property of his, therein killing one of his retainers also. Kuli Khan has some thirty men and horses with him, and it is feared he may intend fresh mischief when-

ever the Vali shall have left the neighbourhood of Arjish, but, as he cannot return to his village, where he has much property, Kuli Khan is rather anxious to become reconciled with his foes rather than to go on living the life of an outlaw.

In several cases of theft of oxen, justice has been done and the beasts restored to their owners.

In Van town the lately arrived Murakhas Vekil is proceeding with the elections for his Councils, lay and spiritual, and, from all I hear, there is much more general content and hope of quiet than was the case six or twelve months ago.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE POLLARD DEVEY.

No. 79.

Consul Jago to Sir W. White.—(Received at the Foreign Office, August 21.)

(No. 21. Confidential.)

Sir, *Aleppo, July 10, 1891.*

REFERRING to my despatch No. 18 dated the 15th instant, respecting matters at Aintab, I have the honour to state that my correspondent there writes me as follows, under date of the 16th instant:—

"I would not trouble you again so shortly were it not that the condition of affairs is exceedingly grave, and I want to let you know of it. As far as the people as a whole are concerned, I suppose the situation is better than it was; but as far as the inner circles are concerned, it is very very bad. Prominent Christians, who are loyal citizens, are being imprisoned; the Moslem Sa'bagh Oglou, who was the inciter of the disturbance, was set at liberty by the Alai Bey; and now he furnishes names, they are arrested, and the accusers are the witnesses, and all is done. There is a reign of terror here, and we do not know what innocent man may be taken next. If there was anything like a fair judicial process it would be all right; but there seems to be no attempt to do anything but make capital out of the Christians."

I shall take an early opportunity of speaking to the Governor-General on the subject; but I have little hope of any good resulting therefrom, the present Vali being a man without energy, politically prejudiced against the Armenians, and while openly confessing and regretting the shortcomings of the administration of justice in general, declaring his inability to remedy it, as being outside his functions.

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. S. JAGO.

No. 80.

Vice-Consul Devey to Acting Consul Hampson.—(Received at the Foreign Office, August 21.)

(No. 23. Confidential.)

Sir, *Van, July 20, 1891.*

I HAVE the honour to report a sad occurrence which, as may be conceived, has caused great stir at Van.

Twelve days ago two foot zaptiehs were bringing on an Armenian arrested at Bashkaleh, named Ghazar; and whilst taking some refreshment at a spring on the hills 8 miles distant from the town were approached in a friendly manner by six Armenians apparently travellers, who treacherously shot them and rescued Ghazar, carrying off the zaptiehs' weapons and all papers, &c., relating to the prisoner with them. One zaptieh is just dead, and his companion seriously wounded.

It is not improbable that the rescue party either then or previously betook themselves to Varak Monastery just opposite, where a large number of Armenians are in the habit of making a short sojourn during summer; and since they have been lost sight of, and possibly have dispersed and are secreted by their fellow-nationalists, or made their escape out of the country. I believe, however, that a certain Manas Oglukivork (or Govand), of Bashkaleh, a carpenter, working in Van town, who organized the rescue, is to be found with Ghazar.

Naturally many Armenians have been arrested, but it is not yet clear who has been seized as suspected of participation, and who, merely for purposes of interroga-

tion, the following are or were lately among those under arrest: Karakin, who put forward the escape of Aghvo, as described last year; Janoyan Kivork, who got up the demonstration made at the Russian Consulate last February; Ghinghianian Garabed, and his brother Saatjian Hagop, Papvehjian Artin, Chitjian Bogos, two previously suspected Armenians of Sikhkeh village, who pretend they had grass to watch near the spot; Penirian Caspar, and one or two other better-class Armenians, who happened to be staying at Varak; and also the night watchman of the monastery.

The Armenian prisoner, whose flight has been brought about, is Ghazar, one of the two who got away at the moment of the recapture of Aghvo with Karakin and his two abettors last year. He was seized at a guard station near Bashkaleh, under very suspicious circumstances, and found to be the bearer of a large number of seditious tracts and newspapers emanating from Marseilles, evidently designed to work up any existing discontent to the point of revolt, by distribution in the villages.

It may be mentioned here that only five weeks ago, a certain Mardiros, a goldsmith of Van, who was returning from Persia without a passport, was arrested at Bashkaleh with another young Armenian and imprisoned at Van. I believe that in his interrogation he made statements that seventy or eighty rifles were being supplied from Russia to Armenians in Soghbulak, in Persia, who threatened to invade Van to stir up a revolt; but I cannot say how much, if any, confidence should be attached to such assertions.

The outcome of this fresh distressing event will be the fomentation of rancour between Armenian and Kurd (both Zaptiehs were Kurds of Bashkaleh), and to render the work of maintaining order, and harmony and justice, between the different sections of the population, upon which the Local Government has been and is so strenuously exerting itself, yet more difficult.

The Kurd is ignorant and violent, suspicious and cunning. In respect of the recent auxiliary movement, many of them are inclined to believe that their Aghas have been cajoled by the Sultan into selling them as soldiers for the Turkish Government. Perhaps in at least half, or it may be a much larger percentage of crime or disorder taking place among themselves, no recourse is had to the authorities, judicial or administrative. At the same time they begin to perceive that the Government are no longer suffering outrage committed by them upon Rayahs to pass with impunity, as of yore. Sometimes even they accuse local functionaries, their coreligionists, of partiality in favour of the Christians.

As to the Armenians the less said the better; but I trust and believe that in the sedition above narrated, no Armenian of respectable station will be found to be implicated or guilty of connivance. Probably only the handful of malcontent youth, of whom some half-dozen were got rid of last winter by imprisonment, will have been concerned.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE POLLARD DEVEY.

No. 81.

Vice-Consul Devey to Acting Consul Hampson.—(Received at the Foreign Office, August 21.)

(No. 24.)
Sir,

Van, July 28, 1891.

WITH reference to my last letter, most of the Armenians, mentioned as having been placed under arrest and named, are already at liberty; only three or four are detained, among whom are Penirian Caspar, and, I believe, one or two others whom the zaptiehs wounded are said to have recognized as their assailants. It is now understood that neither zaptieh has expired of his wounds, though one of them received three musket balls in different parts of his body. The malefactors, Ghazar and Govand, have not been seized, but there are hopes that they may be, and possibly in this neighbourhood, as the Persian frontier is closely watched and officers there are on the alert. It would not be easy for them to make their escape in other directions.

On Friday, Dergobosian Ohannes Effendi (Keshish Oglu) was suddenly seized and sent off summarily, under strong escort, to Constantinople, by order of the Minister of the Interior. He is a Van Armenian of local standing and wealth, and is the "Keckieh Agha Ohannes" [*sic*] referred to in the Mazbata of the 11th (23rd) July 1889, of which translation is published in the "Correspondence respecting the Condition of the Populations in Asiatic Turkey, and the Trial of Moussa Bey."

"Turkey No. 1 (1890)," p. 2. On Friday morning the "Murekhis Vekil" was paying a visit at his house. His presumable banishment, it is said, is not in any way due to the kidnapping of Ghazar, but to habitual thoughtless conduct and a loose way of criticising too audibly the action of the Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE POLLARD DEVEY.

No. 82.

Acting Consul Hampson to Mr. Fane.—(Received at the Foreign Office, August 21.)

(No. 71.)
Sir,

Erzeroum, August 1, 1891.

HAVING been staying for the last few weeks in villages round Erzeroum, I have taken every opportunity of learning personally the condition of the inhabitants, and more especially the feeling existing between Mussulmans and Christians.

The conclusion I have formed is that in this neighbourhood everything is quiet and prosperous, and that there is very little ill-feeling, especially on the part of the Mussulmans, though they sometimes complain, not without reason I fear, that the Christians intrigue and make false accusations against them.

As far as I have been able to ascertain, any agitation which exists is the work of semi-professional agitators, who come from Erzeroum and other centres.

I met one of these men, nominally a school-master in Erzeroum, in an Armenian monastery a few days ago. He at once began talking, in a vague way, of the "deliverance of the Armenian nation from their captivity," and of the assertion "of their rights." When I asked what he meant by these phrases, and what he wished, he was evidently at a loss for an answer. He agreed, as did all those present, that the Armenians, if under Russian rule, would be far worse off than they are now, and admitted that autonomy was impossible. All allowed that there is a marked improvement in the state of things this year, that this was owing to the Vali, who was acting with justice and energy, and that it was very unlikely that any other Vali would be found as satisfactory. In short, their complaints were reduced to the old story of ill-treatment by Kurds (in other districts; not here, where there are no Kurds), and to occasional cases, of which I could obtain no definite statement, of injustice on the part of minor officials.

As for their rights, the only claim which I could evoke was one for the right of establishing an Armenian press in Erzeroum.

While telling them that I was always ready to listen to genuine and well-authenticated complaints, I spoke very strongly against the system of vague and factious agitation, warning them that the only possible result would be to afford a pretext for Russian interference, which they professed so much to dread.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES S. HAMPSON.

No. 83.

Acting Consul Hampson to Mr. Fane.—(Received at the Foreign Office, August 21.)

(No. 72.)
Sir,

Erzeroum, August 1, 1891.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that, from news I have received, the Kurds are giving considerable trouble in various directions.

The Velali tribe, in the neighbourhood of Mount Ararat, have refused to pay any taxes, or to submit to conscription, on the ground that the formation of the Kurdish cavalry absolves them from any such duties; and many of them have crossed the frontier into Persia.

Near Bayazid, a party of the Haideranli Kurds entered Russia, attacked the village of Igdyr, killed the Armenian priest and others, and carried off all the property on which they could lay their hands. I hear, on good authority, that a Russian officer, with an escort of Cossacks, is at present in Bayazid to demand satisfaction, and the surrender of the offenders.

In the Palu district I learn that the Kurds are at open war among themselves,

and that some fifty lives have already been lost. Acting Vice-Consul Boyajian will doubtless send me particulars of these events from Kharput.

With the exception of these events among the Kurds, the country is remarkably quiet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES S. HAMPSON.

No. 84.

Acting Consul Hampson to Mr. Fane.—(Received at the Foreign Office, August 21.)

(No. 74.)
Sir, *Erzeroum, August 8, 1891.*

I HAVE the honour to inform you that, although tranquillity exists generally throughout this part of the country, certainly as far as any idea of disturbances on the part of the Armenian population is concerned, no relaxation is visible as yet in the system of espionage and annoyance towards the latter, which the Ottoman officials have enforced for the last year and more. This is more especially evident in the treatment which Christian travellers meet with. Although their papers may be in perfect order, they are liable to be arrested at any moment, no reason being given for such action; and even though they are generally released after a few hours' detention and interrogation, the inconvenience and annoyance caused are considerable.

Last week two young Protestants from the school at Kharput, one a Russian subject, arrived here on their way to their houses, the one in Russia, the other in Passen. All their papers were strictly in order, yet they had been arrested five times between Kharput and this town. Here their papers were again examined, and they proceeded on their way. From Passen, however, they were again brought back under arrest, absolutely no reason being given for this treatment.

Whatever justification there may have been in the spring for such vexatious proceedings, it seems to me that there is none now; but that, on the contrary, they can only tend to promote discontent and ill-feeling among the Christian population.

Even after learning the recent events in Van, narrated in Vice-Consul Dovey's despatches which I forward to-day, I cannot believe that such a harassing policy is necessary, or other than harmful to the public security. Let strict examination be made before passports are granted; but those whose papers are in order should, surely, not be liable to arrest at any moment during their journeys.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES S. HAMPSON.

No. 85.

Acting Consul Hampson to Mr. Fane.—(Received at the Foreign Office, September 4.)

(No. 75.)
Sir, *Erzeroum, August 15, 1891.*

I HAVE the honour to inform you that the Commander-in-chief, Zeki Pasha, arrived here last Sunday from Erzinjan.

His Excellency informed me that he is making a tour of military inspection, and that he will proceed after a few days in the direction of Alashgerd and Van.

I understand that the main object of the Pasha's journey is to inquire into the formation of the new Kurdish cavalry, in connection with which many difficulties have arisen, the Chiefs in most cases being unable or unwilling to produce anything approaching the number of men which they promised.

I learn with regret that the Commander-in-chief and the Vali of Erzeroum are on very bad terms with each other.

The former made many inquiries about Colonel Chermside, to whom he begged me to convey his best compliments.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES S. HAMPSON.

No. 86.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 4.)

(No. 356.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August 25, 1891.*

I HAVE the honour to report that Her Majesty's Acting Consul at Erzeroum has reported to me by telegraph that a serious disturbance has taken place among the Kurds in Derim, and that the Imperial troops were defeated with a loss of fifteen killed and twenty-five wounded; a battalion of reinforcements has been dispatched to the scene of the disturbances from Erzeroum.

The above information was sent to Mr. Hampson from Kharput.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 87.

Vice-Consul Dovey to Acting Consul Hampson.—(Received at the Foreign Office, September 18.)

(No. 25.)
Sir, *Van, August 4, 1891.*

I HAVE lately been journeying in a few of the cazas round about Van city, viz., Arjish, Bergri, Mahmudi, Albak, Julamerik, Norduz (reduced to a Mudirlik), and Kavash, and found, with reference to the hopes advanced in my No. 45 of last year, the general condition of the inhabitants fairly satisfactory, and some degree of concord existing between the various sections of the community. Since my visit the Vali also has been continuing his *tournée* in much the same direction, making a more extended round. Raids on a large scale are little heard of, though as several squads of the horse gendarmerie have had to be drafted off from Van during the last three months, one or two more serious cases of sheep-lifting occurred nearer home, *e.g.*, at Zerans and Toni villages and in Shattakh Caza, but I believe restitution has been enforced in most of these cases, as well as in pettier thefts and robberies.

What specially impressed me whilst thus travelling was the unusual attention bestowed upon preserving order and quiet along the frontier of Persia. Between Serai and Shemdinan I found companies of infantry and of mounted zaptiehs stationed at six or eight posts along the margin of Gevar, Albak, and Mahmudi, extending for upwards of 100 miles. The village peasants appeared to be even grateful in places for the protection afforded, and I learnt that these troops were kept under strict discipline, and their presence was not under any circumstances a burden or troublesome in those districts.

In Gevar the annihilation of Abdurrahman and his outlaw comrades had produced a good effect. Kaso, the brigand who last year had carried off into Persia a large number of sheep belonging to the Nestorian Notable Cumber, of Iyal, had also come in penitent, and was on the point of making full restitution. The pursuit for the nomad Heriki malefactors (mentioned in No. 22) had entailed serious results; as no idea of surrender had been entertained, an attack had been made in which three or four zaptiehs had been killed or wounded, and twice as many of the Kurds. A battalion of the regular troops was then to be sent to chastise them, but some 300 families, in fact, almost all the settled Shemdinan Heriki, at once withdrew beyond the Persian frontier. Mar Shimun was paying a visit to his tribesmen in Tkhoub and Jelo, where tranquillity was again established. These Nestorians are no less wild and cruel than their fellow Kurds. It may be believed (my information is from non-Moslem sources) that some of their clans, when one of the tribe has been slain by Kurds, will not rest satisfied with exacting only one life in retaliation, but several, provided they can do so without attracting attention or any inquiry following. I think, however, that the energy and ubiquity of the present Mutessarif is producing strides of progress in the right direction, and can only hope that such officers may be well supported for a while to completely change the face of affairs.

Nouri Bey and the sons of Abdal Bey of Mukus were arrested a considerable while ago for suspected participation in the murder of the Armenian "Melik" in Kavash Caza, reported in my despatch No. 22, but the murderers of the Armenian killed in Garchigan have not been taken yet.

There is still, however, a sensible current of discontent in some quarters, and

many of the Christians continue to assert that the quantity of rapine and disorder is as excessive and as little checked as ever, or that if one or two noted outlaws have been punished, those who secretly connive at ill deeds and robbery always go unscathed. But there is little foundation for such plaints.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE POLLARD DEVEY.

Inclosure in No. 87.

Vice-Consul Devey to Acting Consul Hampson.

Van, August 17, 1891.

Sir,

WITHIN the last few days seven Yezids, led by a certain Simo (Ismail), of Varenkaya, who dwell in villages to the north of Van, and are closely assimilated to a Kurdish "Ashiret," were engaged in driving off by force some horses from the Armenian village Karagunduz, on Lake Archag, when two mounted zaptiehs, who chanced to be at that village, supported by the peasants, interfered, and succeeded in recapturing the animals. Unhappily, one of the zaptiehs was shot dead by the Yezids. It may be hoped that these brigands will be hunted down.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE POLLARD DEVEY.

No. 88.

Consul Jago to Mr. Fane.—(Received at the Foreign Office, September 18.)

(No. 25. Confidential.)

Aleppo, August 8, 1891.

Sir,

I VENTURE most respectfully to submit to you the following remarks upon the present state of things in this vilayet, having recently had occasion to telegraph to you respecting the attempts of the authorities to set aside certain provisions of the Protocol of 1868, as also to abolish Article 42 of the Capitulations by the alleged orders of the Minister of Justice.

The responsibility for all this rests upon the present Governor-General, Aarif Pasha, a weak, venal, and incapable man, who exercises no authority over his subordinates, who are left to do as they please. He is stated to owe his present post to Palace influence against the strong opposition of the present Grand Vizier. Letters to him on almost every subject remain unanswered, while personal application is as useless. He promises redress; gives orders to his subordinates when he understands the matter, which is rare, and here the matter rests. Renewed applications meet with the same apologies, the same reproaches addressed to officials, and with the same results; nothing is done. So far as this Consulate is concerned, there is at present no official in Aleppo with whom any question can be seriously discussed or decided. The Government consists of a number of irresponsible Departments, in which chaos, corruption, and confusion reign supreme, without any directing or controlling element. It is sufficient that the business is English, or otherwise foreign, to evoke a spirit of stolid neglect and a *vis inertiæ*, against which it is difficult to struggle when unsupported by the nominal head of the Government.

Matters have been worse of late, so far as foreign interests are concerned, by the introduction into subordinate posts of a number of young Turkish officials, fresh from the colleges of Constantinople, without any official training or knowledge of business, whose self-elected duty it is, according to their undisguised remarks and actions, to reform and purify the present corrupt state of the Administration, and to fight against the privileges which they consider Europeans improperly enjoy in Turkey.

Needless to say, their efforts, unsupported and unaided, laudable and honest as they are, in the first direction are futile, as they occupy minor posts which give them no authority; but in the second, their influence is everywhere visible, in every branch of the Administration, their teaching being adopted to increase the already existing spirit of opposition to foreign influence and privileges.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. S. JAGO.

No. 89.

Acting Consul Hampson to Sir W. White.—(Received at the Foreign Office, September 18.)

(No. 76.)

Erzeroum, August 22, 1891.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Excellency copy, in duplicate, of a Confidential despatch received from Acting Vice-Consul Boyadjian, giving an account of a serious conflict between Turkish troops and Kurds in Dersim, in which the former met with a severe reverse.

Some days ago, during the visit of the Commander-in-chief, a battalion of regular troops was suddenly ordered from this town to Erzingian. It was then rumoured that their real destination was Dersim, where troubles were said to have occurred; but it was impossible to ascertain the truth. These rumours would now appear to be confirmed.

I telegraphed the substance of Mr. Boyadjian's despatch to your Excellency in cypher three days ago.

No further news has been obtainable here.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES S. HAMPSON

Inclosure 1 in No. 89.

Vice-Consul Boyadjian to Acting Consul Hampson.

(Confidential.)

Kharput, August 10, 1891.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report, for your information, that the Governor of Dersim, who is also invested with the command of the troops stationed in the mountains, addressed a telegram three days since to the Governor-General, informing his Excellency that there were disturbances in the sandjak, and that a fight which took place a day before resulted disastrously for the troops, at the same time applying for a reinforcement in order to inflict a severe and exemplary punishment upon the aggressors.

It appears that a certain Ahmed, the Chief of the Khodge Oushaghi clan, having a long-standing feud with Youseph Agha, another powerful Chief, on account of his brother having been poisoned in the house of the latter, made a raid recently upon a village belonging to Youseph, killed one of his men, and carried off one or two hundred head of cattle, upon which the Governor collected several hundred irregulars and dispatched them in company with the regular troops to follow and chastise the offenders. In a gorge of the mountain fastnesses, Ahmed's men joining with another clan called Sham Oushaghi, made a rush upon them, and a fight took place, in which fifteen of the troops, including the Physician of the battalion, were killed, and twenty wounded.

Colonel Mehemed Ali Bey also received a severe wound. I am further informed that forty rifles and one cannon, with a considerable quantity of ammunition, were taken by the followers of Ahmed.

I am not yet in a position to state upon whom the responsibility of this serious disaster will be fixed, as this expedition and the employment of the regular troops was, as far as I know, undertaken without previously obtaining the authorization of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, and the collecting of irregular forces is, as you are undoubtedly aware, strictly forbidden.

The above-mentioned telegram, as well as the whole affair, has been kept secret from the public by the Government, and the details above given were obtained by me from different and reliable sources.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS BOYADJIAN.

Inclosure 2 in No. 89.

Acting Consul Hampson to Sir W. White.

Erzeroum, August 29, 1891.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that the only further news which I have been able to obtain regarding the troubles with Kurds in Dersim, reported in my telegram and despatch of last week, is to the effect that the military doctor who was stated in Mr. Boyadjian's despatch of the 10th instant to have been killed was, in fact, only severely wounded, and is doing well.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CHARLES S. HAMPSON.

P.S.—I have just learnt that a few days ago further reinforcements were sent to Dersim, consisting of a second battalion of infantry and half a battery of mountain artillery (three guns) from here, and a battalion of infantry from Erzingian.

C. S. H.

No. 90.

Acting Consul Hampson to Sir W. White.—(*Received at the Foreign Office, September* 18.)

(No. 82.)

Erzeroum, September 5, 1891.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatches Nos. 76 and 79, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that I have received no further news from Acting Vice-Consul Boyadjian in regard to the troubles with Kurds in Dersim.

In this town, various rumours as to fresh disasters to the Ottoman troops have been current, but it has been impossible to obtain any confirmation of them.

The force of regular infantry in Dersim now consists of ten battalions, namely, two from here, two from Erzingian, two from Kharput and Palu, and four stationed in Dersim.

It is late in the year to commence a campaign against the Kurds, but possibly, by energetic measures, order may be promptly restored.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CHARLES S. HAMPSON.

No. 91.

Vice-Consul Devey to Acting Consul Hampson.—(*Received at the Foreign Office, September* 18.)

(No. 27.)

Van, August 25, 1891.

Sir,

ON Saturday, the 15th instant, an Armenian of Shattakh town, named Mohsi* Sahag, accompanied by his brother-in-law Abraham, of Shattakh, and a certain Markar, son of David, of Norduz, were returning from Purbedalan, the village of Girevanli Shakir (whose misdeeds were the subject of correspondence last year), towards their home, when they were attacked near the village of Govan (where the Shattakh Kaïmakam, Reshid Bey, happened to be staying) by Shakir and his brother Umr (Ami, or Amo), another brother, and a servant. Mohsi Sahag was shot dead, and his body hacked by daggers; Abraham made his escape, but is thought to have been wounded, he has not yet been heard of; Markar was not touched, and returned shortly after the murder to the spot.

The Armenian (Sahag) had been to Purbedalan in the hope of getting payment of a debt of £T. 10 from Shakir; he slept the Friday night in the tent of an "Ashiret" Kurd who was stopping at that village, and it is said the charges of the two guns of the Armenians were drawn surreptitiously and earth substituted by Shakir's men. There was no spite against Markar of Norduz, who, however, would hesitate to give strong evidence against Shakir, as he and his family live there. Ten gendarmes were at once sent in pursuit of the assassins, and Shakir's father (Yakub) was arrested by the Kaïmakam, but in view of the influence of the Girevanli family, and the number

* "Mohsi" or "Mohdesi" is a term, like "Haji," implying the bearer had visited Jerusalem.

of their relations and connections (nine or ten) there are holding petty Government offices in Norduz and Shattakh, as members of the Administrative Councils, Census Registrars, zaptiehs, &c., Shakir will perhaps contrive to remain in hiding.

On the 23rd instant the dead body of a zaptieh, killed by dagger-stabs, was seen near the road from Shattakh to Van, near Muscova village. The zaptieh was stationed at a khan between Muscova and Kotis villages, 20 miles south of Van; his gun and cartridges and boots had been carried off. Shakir and four companions were in that neighbourhood the same day.

His Excellency the Vali returned to town yesterday after a tour lasting more than three months; he recently told me that he had taken steps for causing the murderers of Mohsi Sahag to be seized, and I now learn that the Alaï Bey has been sent to Norduz on account of this affair, and that other strong measures have been taken such as, in all probability, will prove successful.

A Kurd of the Arusan tribe is said to have killed a Nestorian named Shlimon on the 17th instant, at a wedding in a village of the Takuri tribe near Serai, the murderer fled; an Armenian youth, son of a peddler of fruit in villages round Van, has also just been killed by accident by a Kurdish boy at Kirel, in Havatzor Valley.

With respect to my despatch No. 26, I am told that false information was given to the Government as to the culprits being the Yezids named. On the same day that the zaptieh was killed in the attempt at driving off animals from Karagunduz village, a telegraph "chaoush" who was travelling alone in that neighbourhood was met and bound and robbed by a party of Kurds who took him for a sheep merchant. The telegraph "chaoush" pretended he did not know these men, so they spared his life; but he asserts that they are Haideranli Kurds, and from the district of Mehmed Sidik Effendi (the worthy and capable Mudir of Abagha), and he surmises that they must have been the robbers who ventured to commit the crime at Karagunduz later the same day. The Kaïmakam of Mahmudi Caza has had instructions to make a most searching inquiry into this affair.

The murder of Mohsi Sahag is the third murder of an Armenian of some wealth and position by Kurds likewise pretending to rural dignity, within the space of ten weeks; the first case being the murder in Garchigan mentioned in my despatch No. 20, and the second that of Krikor Oglu Melkon (Melik) of Mukus Caza. Nouri Bey is in prison for the latter crime, but his trial has not yet begun. The assassins in the other case made their escape, and it is the duty of the Vali of Bitlis to effect their capture. It is most desirable that the four murderers should be apprehended as quickly as possible, in this last case; I have been told that Shakir is the chief culprit, but his Beatitude Hovsep Effendi is informed that Shakir's brother Umr was the actual assassin.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE POLLARD DEVEY.

No. 92.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 18.)

(No. 388.)

My Lord,

Therapia, September 9, 1891.

HAVING observed a paragraph in the "Daily News" of the 29th ultimo to the effect that the bazaar at Diarbekir had been burned on the 31st July, and that disturbances at that place had resulted, I inquired of Mr. Vice-Consul Boyadjian, by telegraph, what truth lay in this report.

Mr. Boyadjian has replied by stating that seventy shops, of which forty-five were municipal property, were accidentally burned, that goods valued at 1,000*l.* were stolen, but partially recovered, and that no disturbances of any kind took place.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 93.

Acting Consul Hampson to Sir W. White.—(Received at the Foreign Office, October 2.)

(No. 85.)
Sir,
Erzeroum, September 12, 1891.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that the Vali left here last Saturday evening for a tour of inspection in the districts of Tortoum, Ispir, and Baibourt. It is expected that his Excellency will be absent about two months.

The Vali's previous journeys have had a very good effect in the districts visited, and I do not doubt that the present tour will be equally useful. His Excellency's energy and justice are beginning to be fully appreciated. It is a pity that his ignorance of civil business, combined with obstinacy in doing things his own way, lead him sometimes into a mistaken line of conduct, as in the case of Mr. Richardson's arrest, and the subsequent refusal to grant him leave to travel until he has a new passport. Subordinate officials of the Government complain much of this obstinacy and ignorance of the Vali.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES S. HAMPSON.

No. 94.

Acting Consul Hampson to Sir W. White.—(Received at the Foreign Office, October 2.)

(No. 86.)
Sir,
Erzeroum, September 12, 1891.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a further despatch received from Acting Vice-Consul Boyajian respecting the origin of the troubles in Dersim, from which it would appear that the conduct of the Military Governor of that district has been very ill-advised.

No fresh news has been obtainable here in regard to events in Dersim.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES S. HAMPSON.

Inclosure in No. 94.

Acting Vice-Consul Boyajian to Acting Consul Hampson.

(Confidential.)
Sir,
Kharput, August 29, 1891.

I HAVE the honour to state that the Dersim affair, reported in a previous despatch, is becoming now a subject of hot controversy between the Governor-General and the Military Governor of the district.

The Governor-General has lately been at Khozat, the chief place of the sandjak, and on being summoned by his Excellency, the Chiefs of the Kurds engaged in the late conflict came down from their mountain fastnesses to pay their respects to him, when they stated that the Governor, Ali Sheik Pasha, sent soldiers in company with several hundred Kurds collected from the tribe with which he know that they had a long-standing dispute, that they attacked, burned, and sacked their villages; under these circumstances they felt it their duty to defend themselves and their families, and that they have always been and are loyal to the Government, paying taxes and serving their time in the army, &c.

The Governor-General, who has a keen sense of justice, and is convinced that the present unfortunate affair has resulted simply from a feud between the two tribes, and the Mutessarif's undue haste in the matter, desires to deal with these unfortunate people more leniently; but the Governor of Dersim, being himself a military man, naturally looks upon the matter from a military point of view, and in order to vindicate the honour of the troops, insists that an expeditionary force, composed of at least eight or ten battalions, be sent to punish, perhaps exterminate, the Kurds for having had the audacity to fire upon the soldiers.

I must also add that the two battalions which arrived lately from Diarbekir, and are on their way to Trebizond, have received orders to proceed at once to Dersim, and I am told that two other battalions left Erzingian for the same destination.

The course of action, however, is not yet decided, as both the Governor-General and the Mutessarif are still in communication with the Ministers of War and Interior, and I am not yet in a position to state which side will influence the decision of the Central Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS BOYAJIAN.

No. 95.

Acting Consul Hampson to Sir W. White.—(Received at the Foreign Office, October 2.)

(No. 87.)
Sir,
Erzeroum, September 12, 1891.

IT is with satisfaction that I am able to report to your Excellency that perfect tranquillity exists throughout the Erzeroum district; that confidence is very nearly, if not entirely, re-established; and that all danger of disturbances, which in the spring appeared imminent, would seem to have completely passed away. In fact, from all I can learn, the country is in a quieter and more settled condition than it has been at any time since the war. Isolated instances of cattle lifting, and even one or two cases of murderous assaults by Kurds, are occasionally brought to my notice; but even these are few, and not serious, the victims being Mussulmans and Christians alike.

The harvest, also, is a very plentiful one; and there seems to be every reason to believe in the continuation of tranquillity and prosperity.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES S. HAMPSON.

No. 96.

Acting Consul Hampson to Sir W. White.—(Received at the Foreign Office, October 2.)

(No. 88. Confidential.)
Sir,
Erzeroum, September 12, 1891.

A STORY has come to my knowledge, on good authority, which will show your Excellency the state of a certain portion of the Armenian community in this town.

A respectable Armenian merchant was found five days ago in the fields within an hour of the town badly wounded with three or four revolver-shots. Being brought into the town and examined, he stated that he had gone out for a walk with the Second Secretary of the Gregorian Archbishopric; that they sat in the fields talking; that then the Secretary got up, saying he would return in a moment, and immediately shot him with a revolver and fled; that he had no idea of the reason of this act.

This is all that the authorities have been able to induce the wounded man to say.

I learn, however, that the real reason of the crime is the following:—

Each of these two men was head of a different secret Armenian Committee: the Secretary, of one for promoting intrigue and discontent; his victim, of a more moderate and peaceful one. Shortly before the attempted murder the two men had a discussion as to the means to be employed in order to ameliorate the condition of the Armenian population.

The Secretary insisted on the necessity of promoting disturbances, and so forcing the intervention of Russia or other Powers. The other strongly disapproved of such a policy, recommending that they should trust to time and gradual reforms, or, at least, watch events, and wait for a more favourable moment before attempting any move.

Such I believe to have been the origin of the quarrel, which ended in the attempted murder.

The Secretary, the perpetrator of the crime, has escaped, it is believed to Russia. His victim is in a desperate condition.

Although, as I have stated in my despatch No. 87 of this day's date, the country is perfectly tranquil, and all danger of any general outbreak is, I believe, completely

gone, yet, unfortunately, there is no doubt that a good deal of foolish and criminal intrigue continues among a certain class of Armenians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES S. HAMPSON.

No. 97.

Acting Vice-Consul Boyajian to Acting Consul Hampson.—(Received at the Foreign Office, October 16.)

(No. 44.)
Sir, *Kharput, September 7, 1891.*

I REGRET to inform you that Colonel Mehemed Ali Bey and the physician of the battalion died from the effects of the wounds received in the unfortunate affair of Dersim, details of which I have had the honour to report in my former despatches.

Mehemed Ali Bey, whose acquaintance I made while he was Commander in Diarbekir, was, as I believe, one of the best officers in the army.

There are at present five battalions in Khozat; the question of attacking the Kurds is not yet decided, and the recent change of the Cabinet may delay the decision for some time to come.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS BOYAJIAN.

No. 98.

Vice-Consul Devey to Acting Consul Hampson.—(Received at the Foreign Office, October 16.)

(No. 30.)
Sir, *Van, September 7, 1891.*

WITH respect to the assassination of the Armenian, Mohsi Sahag, reported in my despatch No. 27, his brother-in-law and companion, Abraham, has since reappeared unharmed.

The Alai Bey, with a strong force of gendarmerie, is still searching for the murderers in Norduz, but I believe that so far he has sent no regular Report. There is strong hope that the guilty parties will shortly be under arrest.

With respect to the zaptieh, Ibrahim of Kavash, assassinated in the same neighbourhood, the most reasonable surmise current is that he was murdered and robbed by nomad Kurds, upon whose capture and conduct to the Van prison he had once been engaged. Among the Kurds of that district wild stories were afloat that Armenians had killed him, while by certain Armenians, as you are aware, it was insinuated that Shakir and his companions were the assassins.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE POLLARD DEVEY.

No. 99.

Acting Vice-Consul Boyajian to Acting Consul Hampson.—(Received at the Foreign Office, October 16.)

(No. 45. Confidential.)
Sir, *Kharput, September 19, 1891.*

I HAVE the honour to call your attention to the state of affairs in the district of Palu, where lawlessness has always more or less existed, but it appears that disorganization is now more than complete, and the authority of the Government less felt.

2. The district in question, I am told, is infested with brigands, who, under the protection, and perhaps at the connivance, of the local Beys and Chiefs, are roaming about unrestrained, and committing excesses of every description.

3. The crimes committed by these gangs of marauders within the last few months amount, I am told, to a fearful number; but the following facts, which I obtained the other day from different sources, will suffice to give you an idea of the extent of the lawlessness prevailing in the said district, and the consequent deplorable condition of the helpless peasants.

4. Some two months ago a certain Mahmud of the Barata Kurdish race, in

company with the nephew of Hasaranly Osman, together with their followers, attacked a village and carried off 400 head of cattle. On being apprized of the fact, the Kaimakam sent a few gendarmes to pursue them, but could only succeed in getting back a part of the spoil. A few days after they fell upon an Armenian traveller and took from him £T. 50 and all his effects; then they passed to Djabakhtshoor, and were in the act of plundering a caravan composed of Armenian pilgrims going to a monastery near Moosh, when the Sub-Governor, having received information of the case, hastened with a sufficient force to the spot, and succeeded in capturing two of the gang, but the rest returned again to the district of Palu, and on that very night carried away seven mules, the property of a certain muleteer, and then passed to the Kharput Plain, doing much mischief there, and giving annoyance to the inhabitants.

5. I have also to bring to your notice another gang under the leadership of Dersimly Kaya, a notorious criminal, who, on account of several murders committed by him some fifteen years or more ago, is wandering about from one region to another in order to avoid being arrested; during all this time, he has been causing depredation in the Palu and Charsandjak districts. Villages occupied by the Armenians have been sacked by him, and the inhabitants subjected to the most cruel treatment, and, in consequence of their inability to defend themselves against such a daring desperado, they have consented to pay him annually a certain sum as black-mail, and he appears periodically to collect this unjust exaction. By the stringent order of the late Vali of Diarbekir, the authorities at Palu last year exerted themselves to capture Kaya and his followers, but they were able only to apprehend his son, who since then has been imprisoned in that place.

6. I must not omit to cite two other most revolting instances of violence which came to my knowledge only the other day. I am told that the servants of a certain Sherif Bey, of Til (a village of the Palu Caza), for the purpose of avenging their master, who was on bad terms with Nadjib Bey, of Palu, descended upon Havar (another village owned by the latter and tenanted by his Armenian farmers), and, seizing on several women, brutally violated them in broad daylight. A similar case occurred ten days since in Zartarich, a village 18 miles east of Kharput, the victim being a young Armenian woman. The Governor-General, his Excellency Somouhi Bey, was exceedingly indignant when informed of this shameful act, and gave strict orders for the arrest of the offenders, and I have the satisfaction of stating that they have been secured and lodged in the prison of this place, and it is to be hoped that they will receive an exemplary punishment.

I have, in conclusion, to remark that full information as to the deplorable state of things in the above-mentioned district has most likely never been received at the proper quarters. The incapacity of the Kaimakam to cope with the existing evil would in all probability prevent his reporting, while the victims, fearing that the offenders might through obvious means escape from justice, and turn upon them with redoubled fury, prefer to suffer silently, and as a rule abstain from complaining to the authorities. One of my informants, when communicating to me the above-stated facts, was trembling with the apprehension that I should publish them, and it is for this cause that I mark this present Report "Confidential." But, in my opinion, this fear is rather in excess, for I feel sure that if they had the courage to lay their grievances before his Excellency Surry Pasha, the present Governor-General of Diarbekir, who is perfectly honest, and whose sole ambition is to insure the peace and safety of every class of subjects of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan under his administration, he would without hesitation take such effective measures as to deliver the defenceless inhabitants of the district from the above-described evils, and bring the malefactors to their senses.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS BOYAJIAN.

No. 100.

Vice-Consul Devey to Acting Consul Hampson.—(Received at the Foreign Office, October 16.)

(No. 31.)
Sir, *Van, September 23, 1891.*

WITH reference to my last, I am glad to announce that Ami, the undoubted murderer of Mohsi Sahag, has been delivered over to justice. He was brought to Van

by his brother, Shakir, and the latter, now accused as an accomplice, has also been placed in confinement.

Eight Armenians, who have been awaiting judgment for several months past, have just been sentenced to a term of three years' imprisonment for having written and distributed threatening letters to extort money last winter; one was acquitted. Some information respecting these letters was given in my despatch No. 2 of the 14th January.

A well-to-do peasant Armenian, named Mohsi Pouan, of Kiziltash village, in Havatzor Nahiyyé, who was lately arrested on suspicion of harbouring brigands and bad characters, and perhaps also of knowledge as to the murder of the zaptieh, Ibrahim, lately reported, has been set at liberty; his release is an act of justice and right. The murder of the zaptieh unhappily remains yet a mystery, but I believe the police have the end of a clue.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE POLLARD DEVEY.

No. 101.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 30.)

(No. 441.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October* 20, 1891.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Acting Consul at Erzeroum, giving an interesting account of the state of that part of the Ottoman Empire during the past months.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 101.

Acting Consul Hampson to Sir W. White.

(No. 97.)
Sir, *Erzeroum, October* 10, 1891.

WE have now reached a season when all danger of disturbances for this year may be considered at an end. Winter will soon commence, which effectually stops all movements in these parts. I venture, therefore, to submit to your Excellency a few remarks on the situation during the past months. Early in the year it appeared highly improbable that this district would pass through the spring and summer without collisions between Mussulmans and Christians of a more or less serious nature. The widespread belief in the inevitability of such events, and the resulting ill-feeling and suspicion between the inhabitants, in itself constituted a very real and imminent danger. But the Mussulmans were restrained from any acts of aggression by the belief which the Vali had inspired throughout the country of his energy, impartial severity, and determination to maintain tranquillity at all costs; and the Christians were too cowed and humiliated by the miserable fiasco in which their plans and intrigues last year had culminated—the climax being the affair of the 20th June, 1890, in which the Armenians, disappointed of the external support on which they had counted, played anything but a brilliant or heroic part—to venture on any open movement, though there still existed much underhand and disjointed intrigue and complaints. The result is that at present the country is perfectly quiet and apparently contented.

And, so long as the Armenians maintain this attitude, I believe that they, as distinct from their Mussulman fellow-subjects, will have very little cause to complain of injustice or harsh treatment on the part of the Government, except, perhaps, in the case of the treatment of travellers, another instance of which is given in my despatch No. 96 of to-day's date. As far as I am able to judge, the Local Ottoman Government wishes to rule its Christian subjects fairly; but, at the same time, it is fully determined that the Government shall be a Mussulman Government, which the Christians must obey without aspiring to have any post in it.

Any attempt to interfere on the part of the Christians will be put down with the greatest severity. This, in my humble opinion, is the keynote of the situation, and it is this exclusion from all share in public affairs which makes the Rayahs throughout this part of the Ottoman dominions so discontented with their position. But in this respect

the Armenians are no worse off than Rayahs in other parts of Turkey; in fact, the only reason of complaint that the Armenians have, above those of their fellow Christian subjects in other parts, is, it seems to me, their being exposed in certain districts to the pillaging and outrages of lawless Kurds. This is undoubtedly a serious cause of complaint. At the same time it should be remembered that Mussulmans suffer from this cause not much less than Christians.

It is highly probable that, other things being equal, the Kurds would rather attack Christians than Mussulmans from their belief that, owing to the exclusion of the former from all share in public business, the punishment of the offence is less likely to be followed up with energy than if their victim was a Mussulman with friends or relations among the local officials, and also from their knowledge that as a general rule Mussulmans are armed, while Christians are not. But, apart from such considerations, I believe the Kurds would just as soon rob and ill-treat Mussulmans as Christians.

If therefore, as it appears, it is impossible to induce the Ottoman Government to allow Christians their due share in local government, it seems to me that the great object to be aimed at for the improvement of the position of the Armenian population is that vigorous measures should be taken to prevent Kurdish outrages, and so give the peasants, both Christians and Mussulmans, that security which will enable them to live in comfort, and easily pay the taxes which are demanded by Government. At present much of the discontent is due to the fact that, owing to the ravages of the Kurds, the peasants are in arrears with their taxes, for which they are constantly harassed by the Government officials.

To attain this object the most efficient means would be to largely increase the cavalry patrols in those districts and at those seasons when and where outrages by nomad Kurds are usually frequent. If those districts were energetically patrolled from June to October, I believe that an end could very easily be put to such outrages. It would, of course, be a *sine qua non* that all offenders caught should be severely and impartially punished. As it is, the patrols during the summer months are far too few and scattered to have any real effect; and I fear also that offenders, even when detected, often manage by some means or other to evade justice.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES S. HAMPSON.

No. 102.

Acting Consul Hampson to Sir W. White.—(*Received at the Foreign Office, October* 30.)

(No. 98.)
Sir, *Erzeroum, October* 10, 1891.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 54 of the 30th May, and its inclosure, I have now the honour to forward copy, in duplicate, of a despatch received from Acting Vice-Consul Boyajian, giving a full account of the Armenian movements in Arabkir.

Such events are much to be regretted; for, as long as such intrigues continue to come to the knowledge of the Local Government, it is hopeless to press upon it any relaxation of its severity towards Armenian travellers and others.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES S. HAMPSON.

Inclosure in No. 102.

Vice-Consul Boyajian to Acting Consul Hampson.

Sir, *Kharpat, September* 26, 1891.

I HAVE the honour to submit, for your information, the following brief but detailed account of the affairs connected with the movements of the so-called Patriotic Committee formed among the Armenians of Arabkir, to which allusion was made in one of my former despatches and several private letters.

It appears that the Government having obtained information from private sources of the existence of a Secret Committee, the object of which was to propagate seditious ideas among the Armenians, the Governor-General gave some months since strict orders to the Kaïmakam of the above-mentioned place to watch, without giving cause for disturbances, the movement, and find out the principal actors in the said Committee, and as the result of his investigation the last-mentioned functionary reported to the Vali that the chief

movers in the matter were the Bishop and a certain Schimavon, the Director of the Armenian High School, who is suspected of being a Russian subject, though possessing a Persian passport, and stating further that they were continually disseminating opinions detrimental to the authority of the Government among the youth of the said community through preaching and teaching.

The murder of a policeman in the streets of Arabkir one night last winter aroused the suspicion of the authorities against four Armenians supposed to be members of the Secret Committee; three of them were arrested, but the fourth, named Daniel, disappeared, and no clue could be found as to the place of his concealment.

In the meantime, a letter posted and addressed to a certain Armenian, signed only with initials, fell into the hands of the Local Government, a copy of which, through the courtesy of the Governor-General, has been given to me. The contents of this letter, if genuine, as well as other documents possessed by his Excellency, are of a most compromising character.

It was not to be expected that the affair would pass off without causing some sort of excitement among the Turkish population; loud complaints from all sides were beginning to be heard, and the Moslems of Arabkir seemed so insolent and sensitive that clash between them and the Armenians was greatly apprehended. They demanded that the Bishop should by force be expelled, which, had it been attempted, the Armenians would possibly have resisted with all their might.

Under these circumstances, the Governor-General felt it his duty to strengthen the garrison of that place by dispatching two additional companies of the troops in Kharput, requesting at the same time the Sublime Porte to press the Armenian Patriarch for removing, without delay, the Bishop to another place. These precautionary measures, I must state, had the desired effect; the Bishop departed quietly for Diarbekir; Schimavon, however, suddenly disappeared, but shortly after he, in company with Daniel and two other Armenians, was arrested in the Dersim Mountains by one of the Chiefs of the district and brought with a large Kurdish escort to the Vali in Kharput, charging them with having been in the villages endeavouring to persuade the people to join them in an insurrectionary movement by declaring that the Armenians were ready to rise, that they had a large sum of money at their disposal to enable them to attain their object, and that Schimavon was able to manufacture guns, all sorts of ammunition, and deadly weapons, such as bombs, two of which they exhibited to the Kurds.

As a matter of course the prisoners denied all these charges, declaring that they were on their way to Erzeroum, and had been set upon by their accusers, who maltreated and robbed them of all their money and effects, and that they knew nothing about the bombs. It must be remarked that it is hardly conceivable that the Kurds should invent all these charges, or could manufacture the bombs, which are thought to be dynamite, nor is it likely that they would bring the prisoners to the authorities if they really fell upon them for the purpose of plunder.

I have also to add that Arabkir seems quiet at present, and there are only six Armenians in the prison here, who are all accused of being members of the Secret Committee, and four of them are further charged with being involved in the above-stated murder case.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS BOYAJIAN.

No. 103.

Acting Consul Hampson to Sir W. White.—(Received at the Foreign Office, October 30.)

(No. 99.)
Sir,
Erzeroum, October 10, 1891.

NEWS has just reached me that a few days ago a party of nine Armenians, while crossing the Sinek Dag Mountain, near Kara Kilissa, in Alashgerd, were attacked by a band of Kurds, said to belong either to the Jelali or the Zilanlu tribe.

Seven of the Armenians were killed, the other two escaping. Of the Kurds, two are said to have been killed, and twenty more to have been arrested by the authorities at Kara Kilissa.

I shall keep your Excellency informed of anything further which I may learn in regard to this affair.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES S. HAMPSON.

No. 104.

Vice-Consul Devey to Acting Consul Hampson.—(Received at the Foreign Office, November 13.)

(No. 32.)
Sir,
Van, October 6, 1891.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that the Armenians, mentioned in my despatch No. 31 as having been condemned to three years' imprisonment for blackmail letters, have been set at liberty, a free pardon having been granted them by the grace of His Majesty the Sultan. This act of mercy will no doubt go far to conciliate Armenian civil discontent both with regard to the Local and the Central Government.

Apparently, they were in all eleven accused; one only was acquitted and the others condemned, but either two or three of the number, named Janoyan Hagob, Derbogosian Ashod, and Yesayan Yesayi, had remained in hiding, probably in the town or neighbourhood of Van, until quite recently, and I believe that the last two only gave themselves up after the conclusion of the trial. These three are now in prison, but, it is understood, in hourly hope of sharing the Imperial clemency shown to their fellow convicts.

I have to mention that three cases of sheep-raiding of villages in Shattakii Caza have been brought to my knowledge, and it is also stated that an Armenian woman was shot dead by a Kurd who meant to kill an Armenian "Kiahya" in the same neighbourhood.

The Kaïmakam of that district, Reshid Bey, has just been replaced by Mahmoud Effendi, who has administered many of the Van Vilayet cazas during several years past, and bears the reputation of a just man.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE POLLARD DEVEY.

Inclosure in No. 104.

Memorandum.

(Confidential.)

JANOYAN HAGOB remains in prison. Derbogosian Ashod and Yesayan Yesayi are still in hiding. My information that they had given themselves up was incorrect; it is likely that they had some such intention, but perhaps those who had concealed them feared they also would get into trouble, and dissuaded them. Probably, they are secreted in the Van town or gardens. Yesayan Yesayi being afflicted with St. Vitus' dance, of course could not show himself anywhere, and no doubt both might have been easily traced by the police if considered worth while.

Those pardoned are Shahinian Garabed, Saatji Mesrob, Belekian Markav, Mokasian Haji Mikail, Mohsi Asbanian Bagdasar, Puhizian Dikran, and Kabuzian Bagdasar (seven in all).

Ohannes, of Alouv village, was acquitted.

(Signed) G. P. DEVEY,
Her Britannic Majesty's Vice-Consul for Van.

Van, October 21, 1891.

No. 105.

Acting Consul Hampson to Sir W. White.—(Received at the Foreign Office, November 13.)

(No. 101.)
Sir,
Erzeroum, October 17, 1891.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 99 of the 10th October, 1891, in which I reported to your Excellency the murder of seven Armenians by Kurds near Kara-Kilissa, I have now the honour to inform you that the Armenians in question were returning to their homes in Kara-Kilissa and Toprak Kala from Russia, whither they had fled last year after the troubles of June. They were nine in all, and, while crossing the Sinek Dag, were suddenly attacked by a large band of Jelali Kurds, said to have

numbered over 100. Seven of the Armenians were at once killed; the two who escaped fled back to Russia.

None of the Kurds were killed, and only six have so far been arrested at Kara-Kilissa.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES S. HAMPSON.

No. 106.

Acting Consul Hampson to Sir W. White.—(*Received at the Foreign Office, November* 13.)

(No. 104.)
Erzeroum, October 24, 1891.
Sir,

WITH reference to the troubles in Dersim, reported in my despatches Nos. 86, 90, 92, and their inclosures, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that I learn from Acting Vice-Consul Boyajian that the reinforcements sent to Dersim remain there in a state of inactivity, presumably awaiting the return of the Commander-in-chief to Erzingian.

The Vali of Kharput, whom Mr. Boyajian speaks of with regret as an excellent official, has been dismissed, in consequence, it is said here, of the Dersim affair. He is succeeded by Raouf Pasha, Vali of Bitlis, of whom I have always heard much good.

The Director of the Armenian School at Arabkir, said to be the leader of the intrigues reported in my No. 98, has been sent to Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES S. HAMPSON.

No. 107.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 27.)

(No. 472.)
Constantinople, November 19, 1891.
My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 178 of the 5th May last, I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Acting Consul at Erzeroum reporting various robberies and outrages by Kurds, and containing complaints against Ahmed Pasha, formerly Kaïmakam of Alashgerd.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 107.

Acting Consul Hampson to Sir W. White.

Erzeroum, November 7, 1891.
Sir,

AS usual at this season of the year, between harvest and the setting in of winter, instances of robberies and outrages by Kurds are reported from various directions. Though not so serious or numerous as last year, yet they are still sufficiently so to afford the peasantry a very real cause of complaint of want of protection on the part of the Government. The formation of the new Kurdish cavalry appears so far to have but little restraining effect on these outrages, in which many members, and even prominent officers of the new force, are accused of taking part.

The worst cases which have come to my knowledge are the following:—

1. Two months ago, two Armenian girls were carried off by Kurds from the village of Köshk, in Aintab.

2. Some few weeks ago Mustako, a Kurdish Chief of the Biliklu tribe, carried off an Armenian woman from the village of Maaruf, in the Khinis district. The woman was recovered by the interventions of the local authorities, but Mustako was allowed to go unpunished.

3. Three weeks ago Kurds attacked a caravan near Ashagilias, in Alashgerd, killed one man, and carried off sixteen bales of goods and eight oxen.

4. About the same time, a party of Jibranlu Kurds, under one Abdo, attacked a Persian caravan on the road from Erzeroum to Trebizond, between Ilidja and Ashkaleh, and carried off six bales of very valuable goods, said to be worth over £ T. 500. The Commander of the Gendarmerie here went in pursuit with a party of mounted police. They came up with the robbers, and, in the fight which ensued, one of the police was wounded, while Abdo, the Chief of the robbers, was killed, and one other Kurd wounded. The stolen goods, however, were not recovered, though sixty cattle, which had been taken from various villages, were brought back here.

5. From Hasdur, in Alashgerd, I learn that, during this autumn, 100 cart-loads of hay and fifty of wheat have been burnt by Kurds, and forty cattle carried off. It is said that this amount is small in comparison with that destroyed or carried off from other villages.

6. It is said that Kurds of the Sibkanlu tribe, who are members of the new cavalry, avail themselves of that pretext to take forage, food, &c., from the villagers of Alashgerd without payment. This system of military robbery has hitherto been the speciality of the police and regular cavalry patrols.

From Alashgerd I continue to hear many complaints against Ahmed.* This man, as your Excellency will remember, was dismissed from the position of Kaïmakam, but he was subsequently raised to the rank of Pasha; and, though holding now no official post, he still grievously oppresses the people, exacting all sorts of forcible contributions from them.

As an instance of one of his methods of procedure I may quote the following case:—

About two months ago, Ahmed persuaded some Kurds to bring a charge of murder against eleven Armenians of Hasdur. The murder alleged was that of a Kurd, who was killed while on a pillaging expedition about twelve years ago. The eleven Armenians were, however, thrown into prison, from which they were only released on payment of some 20 liras, of which Ahmed received 4, the Cadi 6, the Juge d'Instruction 4, and other officials the remaining 6. In addition to this, before being released, they had to pay 5 liras to their Kurdish accusers, and to sign a bond for another 30, which the Kurds have now brought to the Tribunal here and had confirmed.

A German traveller, who recently passed through here from Van, told me that, throughout Alashgerd, he heard continual complaints of Ahmed Pasha; and that the failure to protect the villagers against his extortions and against Kurdish outrages appeared to be the only serious grievance against the Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES S. HAMPSON.

No. 108.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 27.)

(No. 474.)
Constantinople, November 19, 1891.
My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 112 of the 27th March last, inclosing a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Aleppo respecting Armenian prisoners of Zeitoun, I have the honour to forward herewith a copy of a further despatch from Mr. Jago, inclosing a translation of a letter from the Bishop of Zeitoun, and reporting on the progress made with the trial of the prisoners

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 108.

Consul Jago to Sir W. White.

Aleppo, November 6, 1891.
Sir,

REFERRING to my previous despatch of the 14th March, on the subject of the Armenian political prisoners of Zeitoun now in prison at Aleppo to the number of

* *Vide* my despatches of February 21, March 7, and April 18, 1891

forty-six persons, I have the honour to inclose herewith, with a translation I have made, a letter in original in Armenian, from Bishop Carabet, of Zeitoun, now in prison here with forty-five others.

They have been twelve months in prison, namely, three months in Marash and nine months in Aleppo. Their trial, which began early in July, makes little progress. Twenty-four witnesses have been called from Marash for the prosecution: six Turks and eighteen Armenians. Of these, three Turks have only so far appeared, and they testified wholly in favour of the accused. The final trial is now fixed for the 18th instant, by which time the remaining twenty-one witnesses are expected to arrive. They, also, are expected to testify in favour of the accused.

Those guilty of killing the gendarme and firing on the troops, members of the robber families of Zeitoun, would seem to be still at large in the mountains, while it is very doubtful whether any evidence of treason or conspiracy against the Government can be produced against those now in prison, seeing that the witnesses for the prosecution have evidently been chosen with little regard to the nature of the evidence they are able to give. The prisoners are well treated.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. S. JAGO.

Inclosure 2 in No. 108.

The Bishop of Zeitoun to Consul Jago.

Prison of Aleppo, November 5, 1891.

(Translation.)

WE supplicate your charity, being disturbed in mind, and having faith in your assistance.

You are aware that certain Armenian newspapers of Constantinople (three) published two months ago the news of our pardon by the Sultan, our Guardian. We are, however, to our suffering, still in prison. We have petitioned the Imperial Throne, the Grand Vizier, and other Ministers, also our Patriarch, but to our sorrow have received no reply.

On the other hand our trial is going on, so-called witnesses having been called to appear against us who have testified in our favour. We beseech you now to put an end to this state of things so that we should know in what position we are; and this is within your competency. In the name of humanity we beg you to listen to us and to our wives and families who remain without help.

On behalf of forty-six prisoners,
(Signed) CARABET, *Bishop.*

No. 109.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir W. White.

(No. 257.) *Foreign Office, December* 2, 1891.

Sir,

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 472 of the 19th ultimo, inclosing a Report from Her Majesty's Acting Consul at Erzeroum on the subject of outrages by Kurds in the neighbourhood of that town.

You should call the attention of the Ottoman Government to the complaints against Ahmed Pasha, formerly Kaïmakam in Alashgerd, referred to by Mr. Hampson.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 110.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 11.)

(No. 491.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 7, 1891.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Acting Consul at Erzeroum, respecting the improvement in the political condition of that vilayet and at Van.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 110.

Acting Consul Hampson to Sir W. White.

Sir, *Erzeroum, November* 28, 1891.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy in duplicate of a Confidential despatch received from Vice-Consul Devey respecting the condition of the Van and Biltis Vilayets.

The general improvement reported by Mr. Devey corresponds with that which has been noticeable in the Erzeroum district, on which I had the honour to make some remarks to your Excellency in my despatches Nos. 87 and 97.

The Armenian sedition in Arabkir, to which Mr. Devey refers, was fully reported in my No. 98 and its inclosure.

All seems quiet now in that direction, and now that heavy falls of snow have put an end to circulation throughout the country, it may be expected that all will remain quiet for several months, with good reason to hope that the improvement in the general tranquillity which has been observable during the year will continue when the country is open again next spring.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES S. HAMPSON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 110.

Vice-Consul Devey to Acting Consul Hampson.

(Confidential.)

Sir, *Van, November* 2, 1891.

I HAVE the honour to make some observations upon the political state of the country during the past few months. It has been again favoured by abundant harvests, and a certain briskness in commerce, though cholera in Syria in some degree disturbed calculations for the export of sheep.

In the first place it is satisfactory to record that the pay of the gendarmerie has been raised (reference to my despatch of the 26th July, 1890, § 5). A private trooper in this force will in future be able to maintain himself and family in comparative ease on the sum of 120 piastres per mensem. It is to be hoped that an effort will be made to insure the regularity of their salaries throughout all the dependencies, as well as in the chief Government towns.

It would be absurd to pretend that the known Ottoman abuses and improprieties, deep-rooted and of long standing, are fast melting away all at once; but I believe myself entitled to form the opinion that there has been a general progress in the various Departments of the Provincial Government, and further, that there has been distinct improvement in public order and in justice in the Van and Bitlis Vilayets during the last twelve or eighteen months.

With regard to Van, one or two remarks may, if not out of place, be offered as supporting this conclusion, from personal observation. Rare complaints are heard of zaptiehs, when collecting village taxes, behaving with impropriety towards those with whom they have dealings; and in view of the yet backward state of these districts, the conduct of the force is on the whole highly praiseworthy.

The standard of military discipline has been raised lately. It is said that men of the garrison here used formerly to commit numerous trifling acts of licence and theft, which could only be regarded as gross misconduct. I am assured that nothing of the kind ever takes place now.

The administration of justice is advancing in order and efficiency; more energy and good-will are displayed in the efforts for prompt seizure and delivery to the Court of criminals culpable of violence and robbery, and in this, I incline to think, lies the basis of any real durable amelioration. Other instances might be cited.

Often is it dogmatically laid down that no substantial public order can be maintained until the Government will hold the Agha or local grandee (whatever he may be) responsible for the acts of his tribesman, retainer, tenant, or relative or dependent, as the case happen. No logic could, however, wish to see the innocent punished for the guilty (even where a strong suspicion or possible proof of connivance in some degree might be established), only that indirect pressure should be applied, such as deprivation of any existing privileges or favours, or withholding them where there might be grounds for expectation of some such advantage—a rank or decoration or petty office, for example. Recently such action on the part of the civil authorities here would have been positively hampered by the activity of their military colleagues.

It may be that the Central Government, whilst wishing to adopt such a course, is anxious that there should not be over-zeal on the part of its agents, and is unwilling to expose itself to total aversion from the Kurds. One or two recent incidents might perhaps call up this idea: I refer to the restitution of order in Gevvar, where the Acting Kaïmakam swept the district of some particularly noxious characters this summer; he was shortly afterwards removed, but is now holding another difficult post with the special duty of creating peace and order in Shattakh Caza. Again, in Bitlis Vilayet an infantry Colonel was sent to seize secretly a powerful Kurd, Mehmed Agha, of Shernak, for certain offences, and effected the capture most successfully, without allowing any collision between his troops and the Agha's Kurds. But since this seizure the Colonel has been transferred to a distant regiment on account of a breach of discipline, I believe. The Vali, Raouf Pasha (not necessarily *post hoc ergo propter hoc*), has also been since appointed to the Government of Kharput. On referring to a despatch from the Kurdistan Consulate, dated the 12th March, 1890, it is both pleasure and a duty to add that Raouf Pasha's administration has been most beneficial to that vilayet throughout.

As to measures taken with respect to treatment of the Aghas, an important step has been taken in these last few months which may bear good fruit; certain Sheikhs and Aghas (it would be invidious to mention names, but more than one is to be met with in my despatch of the 20th July, 1890) have been invited or summoned to this city, where, whilst kindly and hospitably received for a shorter or longer period (I doubt not), they received excellent counsels; possibly also their attention may have been insured sometimes to these by menaces—menaces coupled with the palpable sight and assurance of means of execution.

The Mushir's visit to this region and energy in securing recruits for the proposed auxiliary regiments of Kurdish cavalry has been a prominent feature in the year's events; according to one report, he has enrolled thirty regiments between Khanus and the Persian frontier, which would imply the very respectable force numbering some 12,000 embryo cavalry men and horses at the least; but I doubt whether within the Van Vilayet he has been able to enlist more than 4,000 men. At all events, he has succeeded in establishing very cordial relations with most of the tribal Aghas north of Van. It would be too early to continue the movement southwards, *i.e.*, in Hekkiari and along the Bohtan River, for a year or two yet, though some of the Chiefs are to be received as officers, I believe. The Kurds have come forward with great readiness to enlist, and their horses have been branded; once or twice it has been said that they have borrowed or stolen the animals of others for this purpose, but I cannot yet confirm the report. If this should happen to prove the case, it would be perhaps desirable to make a detailed confidential report, in the hope that the Mushir might be requested to see justice done in the particular instance. Only recently Mehmed Zekki Pasha placed under temporary arrest one of their newly-made Pashas—a man, by the way, well hated (and no doubt with cause) by the Armenians—for holding himself out as having authority over a little Kurdish canton which entirely and violently rejected the claim.

Naturally this undertaking has been bitterly resented by the Armenians, and has not helped to allay existing envy and rancour.

Upon the whole the Van Armenians, *i.e.*, the more obstreperous among them, have kept fairly quiet since last winter's foolish wickedness; their superfluous energies were expended in the Norkugh Pass incident of the 8th July last. The late release of the few convicts mentioned in my despatches Nos. 31 and 32 appears to have produced a

good effect, and the confinement of these young men may have taught them and their fellows a lesson in prudence and honesty for a while. Latterly reports have been circulated again of maltreatment of Armenians in prison, but on examination it appears that in point of fact a dispute arose between some Kurds and Armenians, unfortunately, but without any one being seriously injured.

There is little reason to believe in any premeditated designs undertaken beyond the neighbouring frontiers provocative of Armenian sedition in Turkey. And the occasional instances of Armenians suddenly disappearing from cities to get away to foreign countries are becoming more few and far between; indeed, they have never been otherwise.

Excepting for the rescue of the Armenian prisoner above referred to, there would be reason to hope that the Porte has attempted, especially in this vicinity, a beginning for conquering the antagonism of subject races, and for winning Christian loyalty throughout most parts of Armenia. The only other and far more serious manifestation of Armenian discontent took place lately in Arabkir, where, according to reports received here, there was something like actual treason, which resulted in the death of a policeman.

In conclusion, it should be noticed that the Kurds who robbed the Van Russian Consulate Dragoman last June have been traced and punished for this serious outrage, and the property stolen, or its value, is to be restored; and also that during the last few weeks I have only heard of one highway robbery, an attack upon a party of villagers coming from Chkniak to Van by three or four Kurds (since arrested), in which a Yezid and an Armenian were wounded, and grain was stolen.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE POLLARD DEVEY.

No. 111.

Vice-Consul Boyajian to Acting Consul Hampson.—(*Received at the Foreign Office, December* 25.)

(No. 54.)

Sir, *Diarbekir, November* 23, 1891.

IN connection with my despatch No. 45, Confidential, I have the honour to state now that the Governor-General of Diarbekir, his Excellency Surry Pasha, having received information as to the deplorable state of things in the Palu district, has caused the dismissal of two of the functionaries and the change of the Sub-Governor of the caza; but whether this step will have the desired effect of remedying the existing evil in the said district remains yet to be seen. In my opinion, more effectual and stronger measures are necessary in order to bring the lawless marauders to their senses.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS BOYAJIAN.